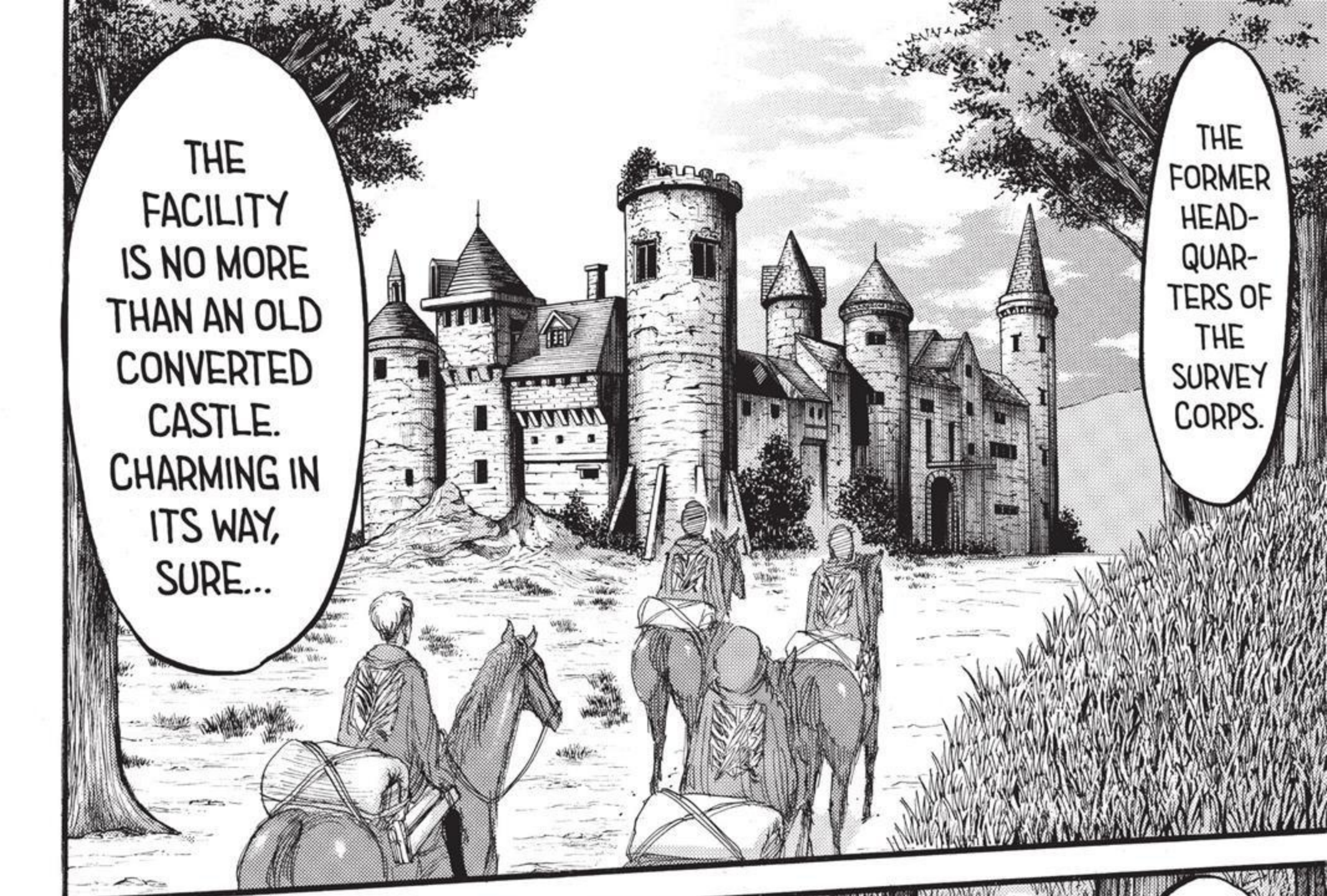




Episode 20: Special Operations Squad



THE
FACILITY
IS NO MORE
THAN AN OLD
CONVERTED
CASTLE.
CHARMING IN
ITS WAY,
SURE...

THE
FORMER
HEAD-
QUAR-
TERS OF
THE
SURVEY
CORPS.



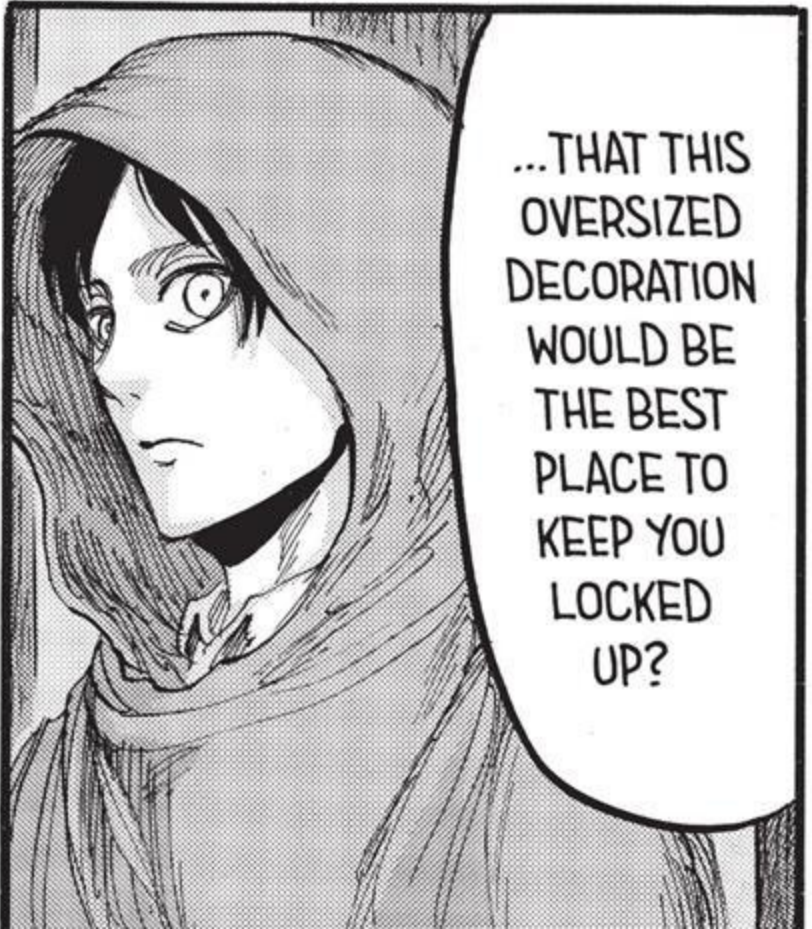
WHO
WOULD'VE
FIGURED
...

BACK
THEN THE
CORPS HAD
JUST BEEN
FORMED, AND
THE SOLDIERS
WERE STILL
FULL OF
AMBITION
...

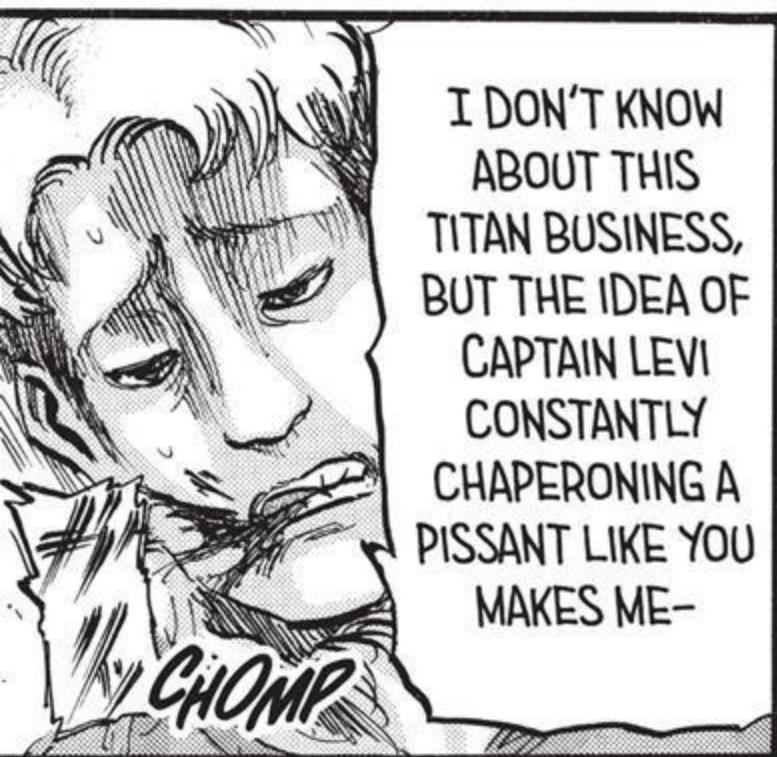
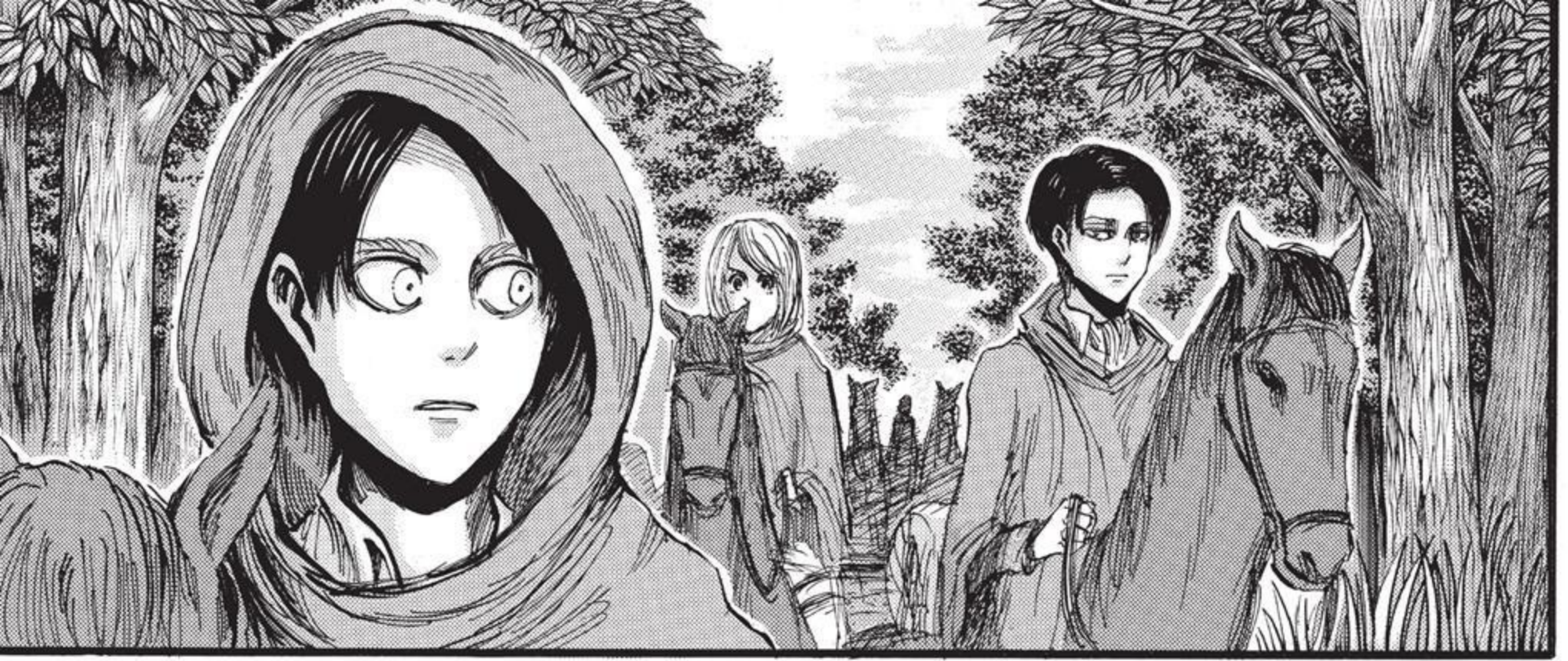


...WAS
WORSE
THAN
USELESS
TO THE
SURVEY
CORPS.

...BUT
AN HQ
THIS FAR
FROM
BOTH THE
WALL AND
THE
RIVER...



...THAT THIS
OVERSIZED
DECORATION
WOULD BE
THE BEST
PLACE TO
KEEP YOU
LOCKED
UP?





I
THINK HE
WAS JUST
SURPRISED
BY WHAT A
FOOL YOU
ARE,
OLUO.

THAT
ROOKIE
WAS
QUAK-
ING IN
HIS
BOOTS.

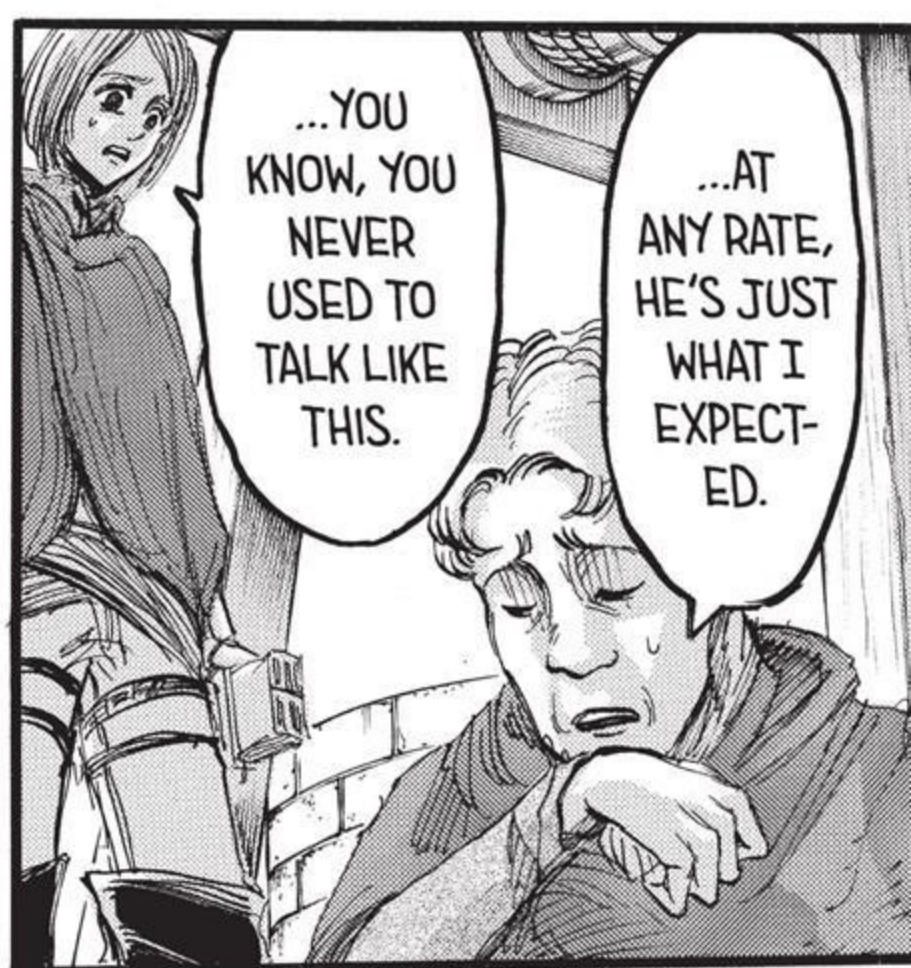
...I WAS
MAKING
A FIRST
IMPRES-
SION.

BLATHER-
ING LIKE THAT
ON A HORSE...
OF COURSE
YOU'RE GOING
TO BITE
YOUR
TONGUE.



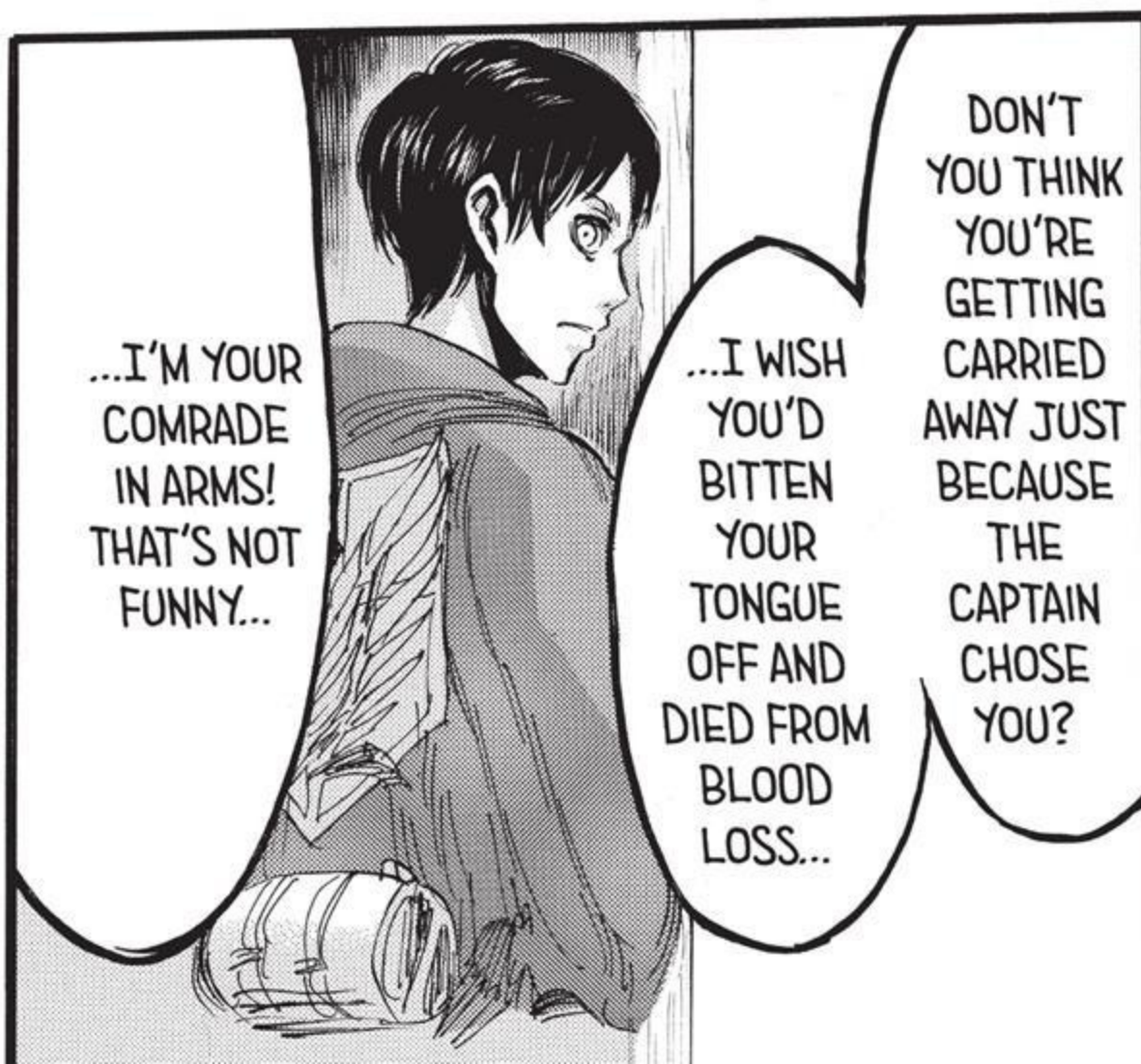
I MEAN...
YOU HAVE
ABSO-
LUTELY
NOTHING IN
COMMON
WITH HIM.

IF...
AND THIS IS
JUST A GUESS...
BUT IF YOU ARE
TRYING TO
IMITATE CAPTAIN
LEVI... JUST
STOP IT, WOULD
YOU?



...YOU
KNOW, YOU
NEVER
USED TO
TALK LIKE
THIS.

...AT
ANY RATE,
HE'S JUST
WHAT I
EXPECT-
ED.



...I'M YOUR
COMRADE
IN ARMS!
THAT'S NOT
FUNNY...

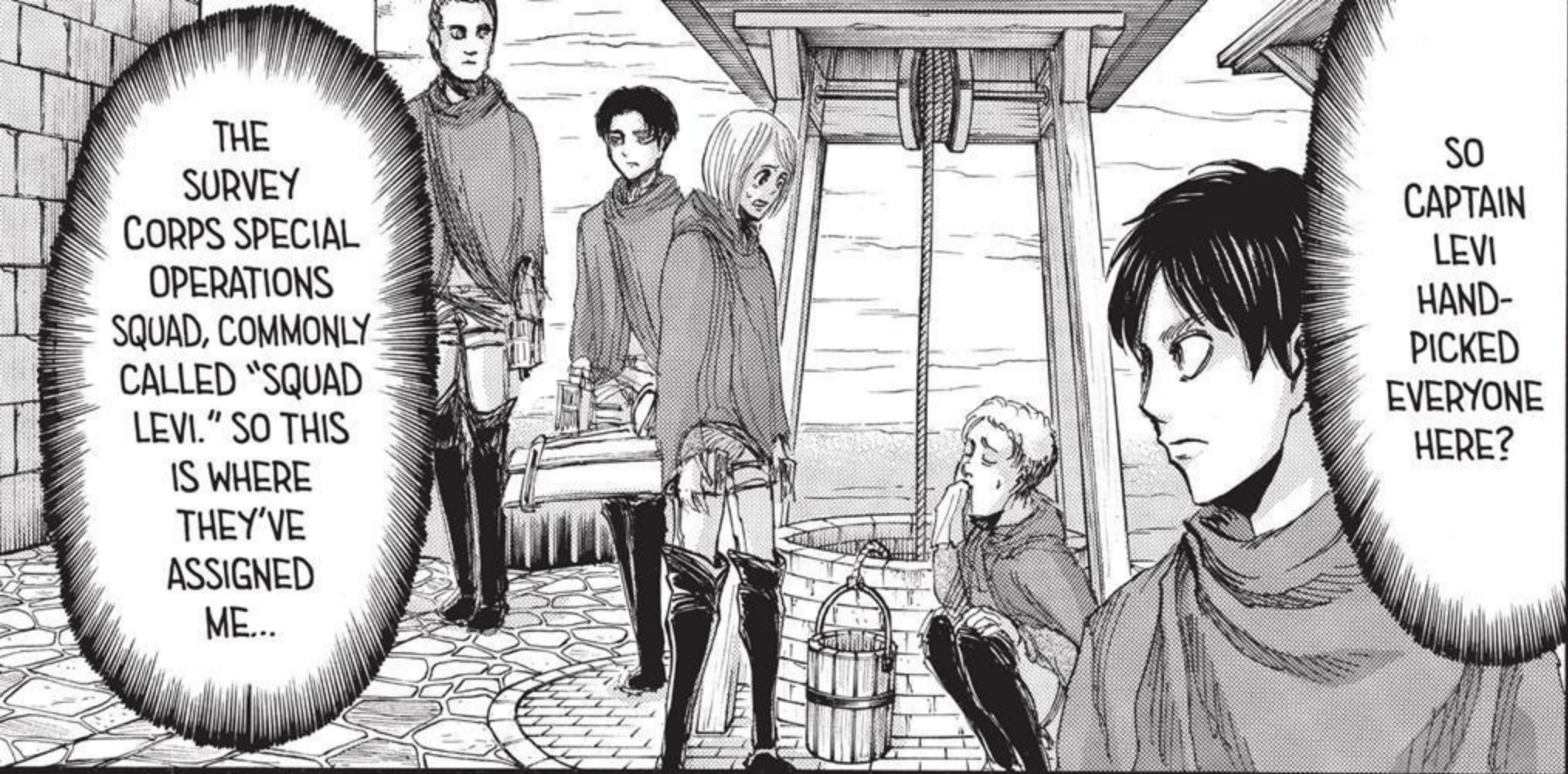
...I WISH
YOU'D
BITTEN
YOUR
TONGUE
OFF AND
DIED FROM
BLOOD
LOSS...

DON'T
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
GETTING
CARRIED
AWAY JUST
BECAUSE
THE
CAPTAIN
CHOSE
YOU?



HEH...
WHAT, ARE YOU
TRYING TO REIN
ME IN, PETRA?
IF YOU WANNA
ACT LIKE MY
WIFE, THERE
ARE A COUPLE
STEPS YOU
SKIPPED.

...!!



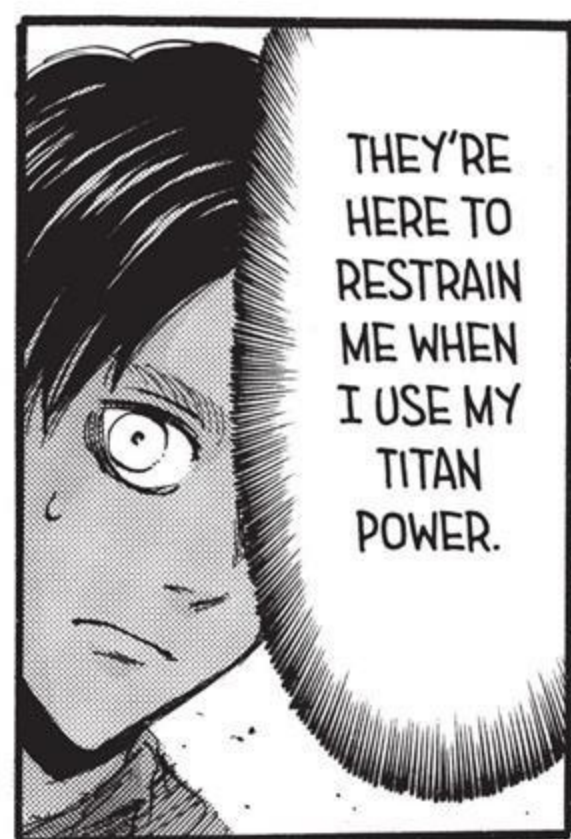
THE
SURVEY
CORPS SPECIAL
OPERATIONS
SQUAD, COMMONLY
CALLED "SQUAD
LEVI." SO THIS
IS WHERE
THEY'VE
ASSIGNED
ME...

SO
CAPTAIN
LEVI
HAND-
PICKED
EVERYONE
HERE?



...THESE
PEOPLE ARE
GOING TO
KILL ME.

IF I
GO OUT OF
CONTROL...



THEY'RE
HERE TO
RESTRAIN
ME WHEN
I USE MY
TITAN
POWER.

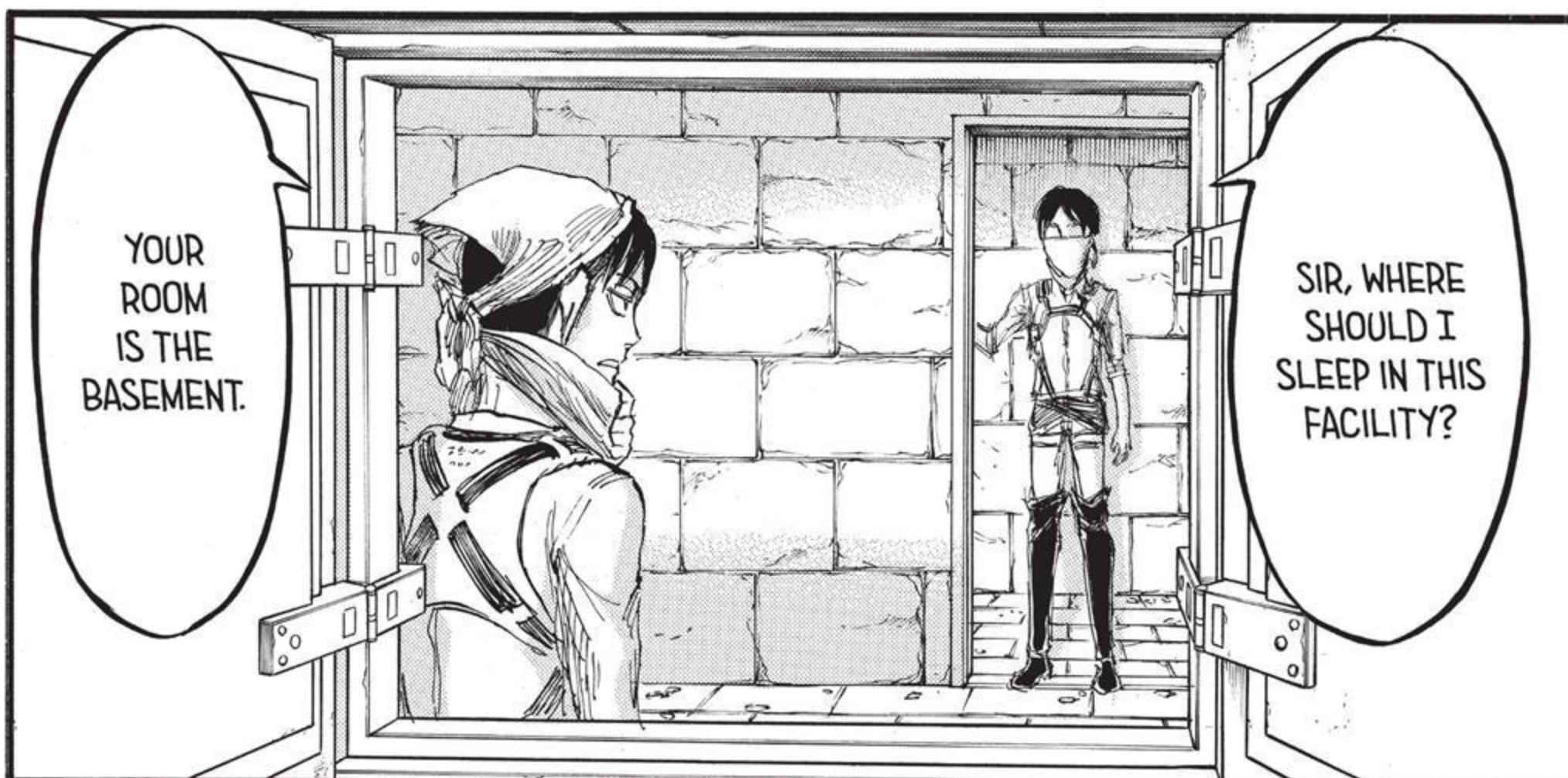


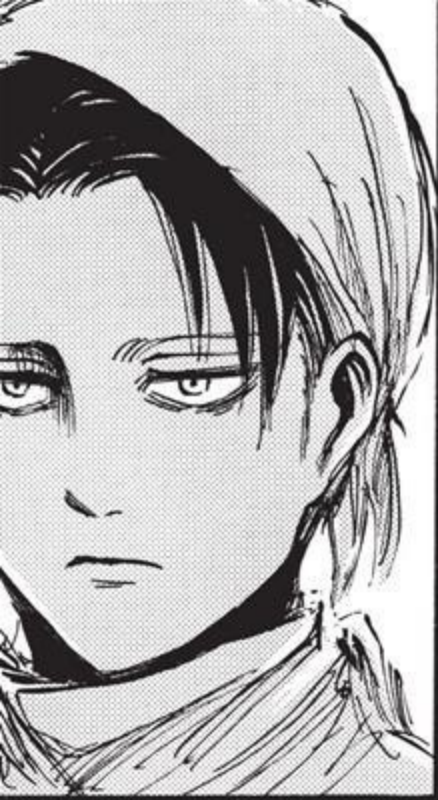
FIX
IT UP
IMMEDIATE-
LY.



THAT'S
A MAJOR
PROBLEM
...

IT
HASN'T
BEEN USED
IN A LONG
TIME, SO
IT'S KIND
OF FALLEN
INTO DIS-
REPAIR.





IT'S
A RULE
WE MUST
FOLLOW.



THAT'S
ONE OF THE
CONDITIONS
WE WERE
GIVEN WHEN
THEY PLACED
YOU IN OUR
CUSTODY.



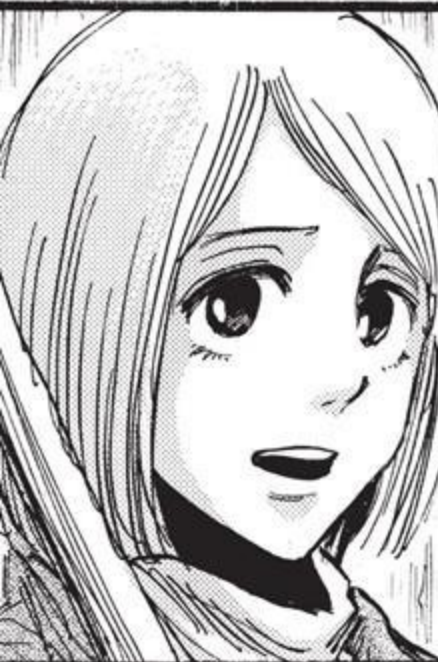
YES,
SIR...



DO
THIS
ONE.



I'M
GOING
TO CHECK
OUT THE
ROOMS
YOU
CLEANED.



IT
ISN'T AN
UNUSUAL
RE-
ACTION.



SORRY
?



YOU
LOOK
DIS-
APPOINT-
ED.



...HIGH-
STRUNG,
ILL-
MANNERED,
AND UN-
APPROACH-
ABLE.

...IS
UN-
EX-
PECT-
EDLY
SHORT
...

THE
REAL
CAPTAIN
LEVI...



HE DOESN'T
SEEM LIKE THE
PERFECT HERO
THAT PEOPLE
MAKE HIM OUT
TO BE, DOES
HE?

YOU THOUGHT BECAUSE
HE CARRIES A LOT OF
WEIGHT, THAT HE WOULDN'T
BE CONCERNED WITH RANK
OR THE COMMAND
STRUCTURE?



RIGHT... I
THOUGHT HE
WOULDN'T TAKE
ORDERS FROM
ANYBODY...



...WAS
HOW
OBEDIENTLY
HE ACCEPTS
DECISIONS
FROM
ABOVE.



NO...
WHAT
TOOK ME
BY
SURPRISE
...

THE
COM-
MANDER
DID?!



I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED, BUT
SOME PEOPLE
SAY COMMANDER
ERWIN BROUGHT
HIM INTO THE
CORPS.

I HEARD
THAT BEFORE
CAPTAIN LEVI
JOINED THE
SURVEY CORPS,
HE WAS A
NOTORIOUS THUG
IN THE CITY'S
UNDERGROUND
MARKET.



I DON'T
KNOW ALL
THE DETAILS...
BUT I THINK
HE USED TO
BE PRETTY
CLOSE TO
THAT.

DO
IT ALL
AGAIN.

YOU
CALL
THAT
CLEAN
?!

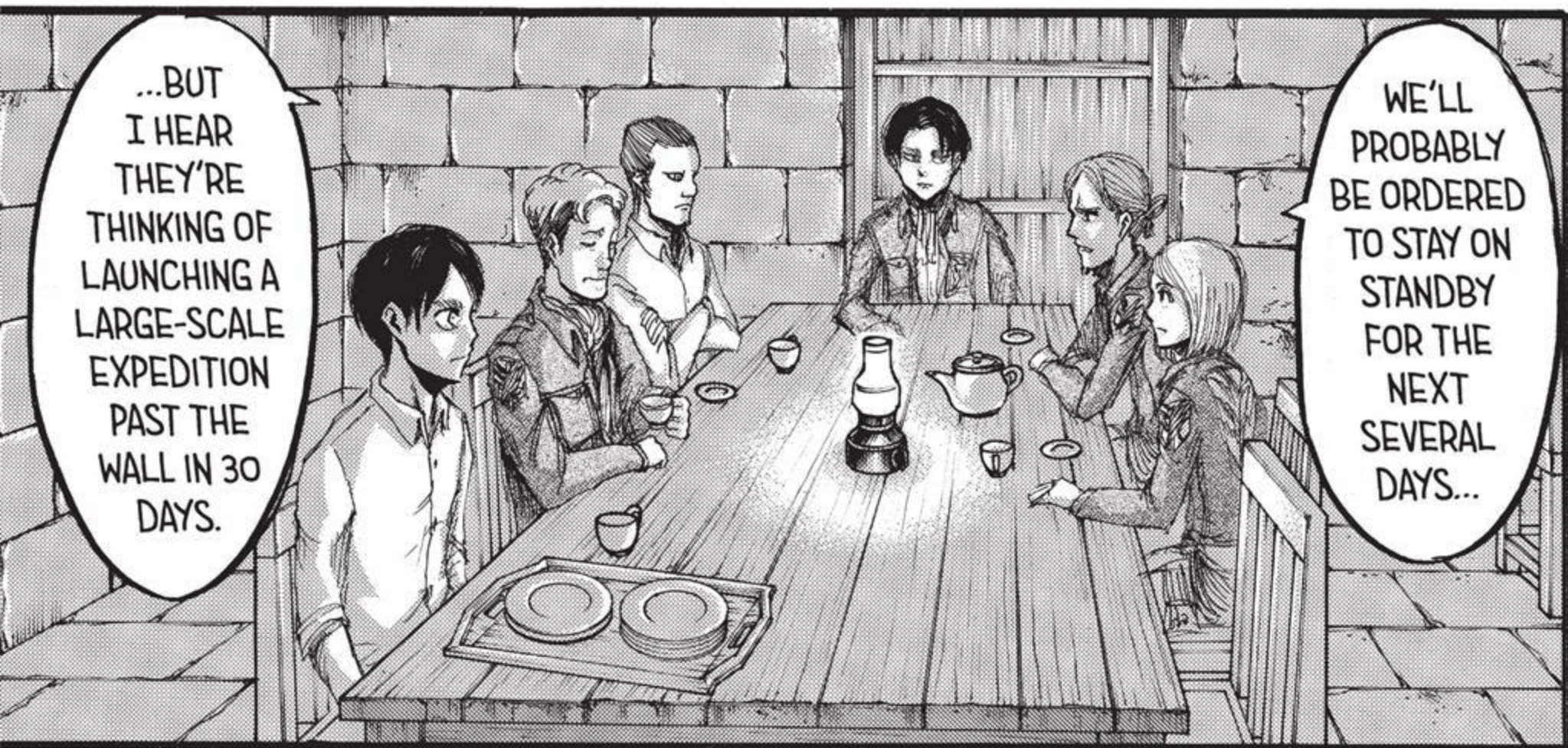
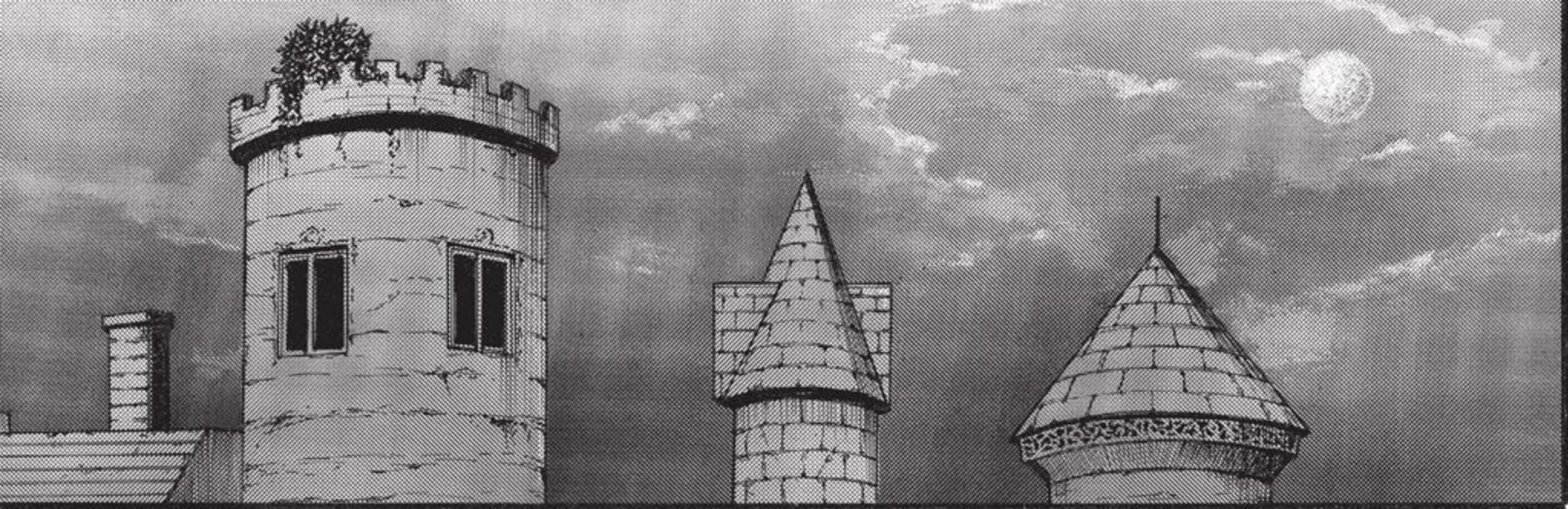


Y-
YES,
SIR !!



HEY
...
EREN.





...BUT
I HEAR
THEY'RE
THINKING OF
LAUNCHING A
LARGE-SCALE
EXPEDITION
PAST THE
WALL IN 30
DAYS.

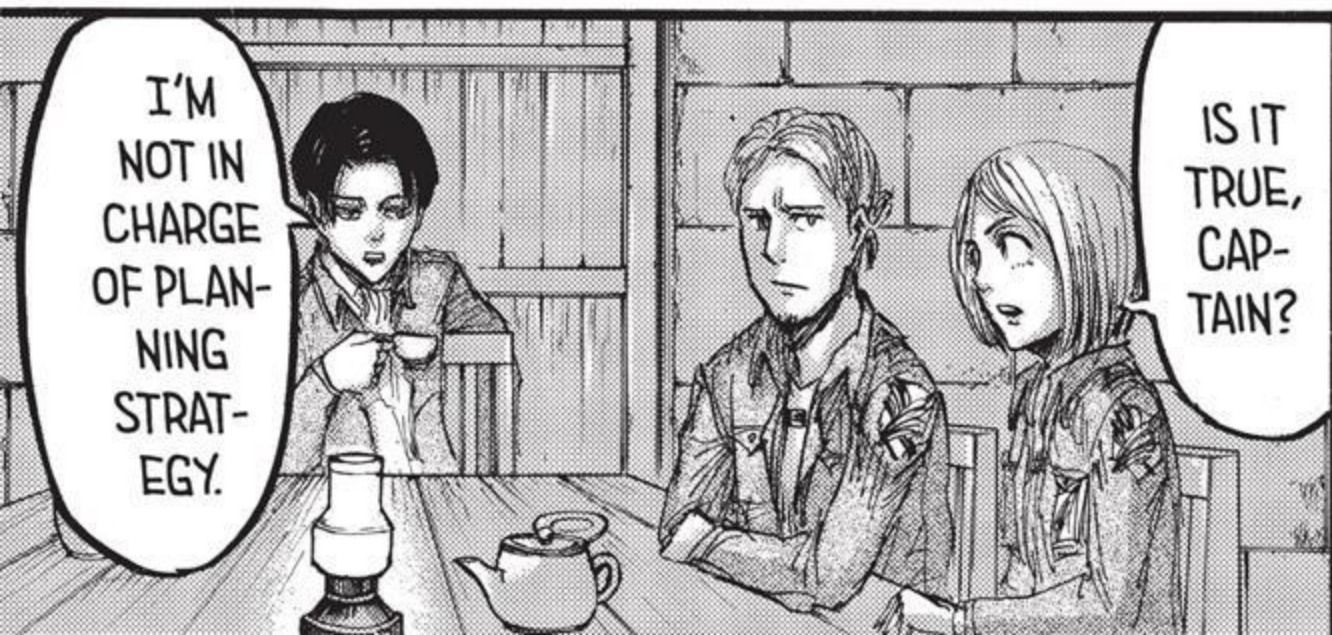
WE'LL
PROBABLY
BE ORDERED
TO STAY ON
STANDBY
FOR THE
NEXT
SEVERAL
DAYS...



I BET
THE BRATS
WERE
PARALYZED
WITH
FRIGHT.

THE RAW
RECRUITS
JUST WENT
THROUGH A
TITAN
INVASION!

ISN'T
IT A
BIT
TOO
SOON?



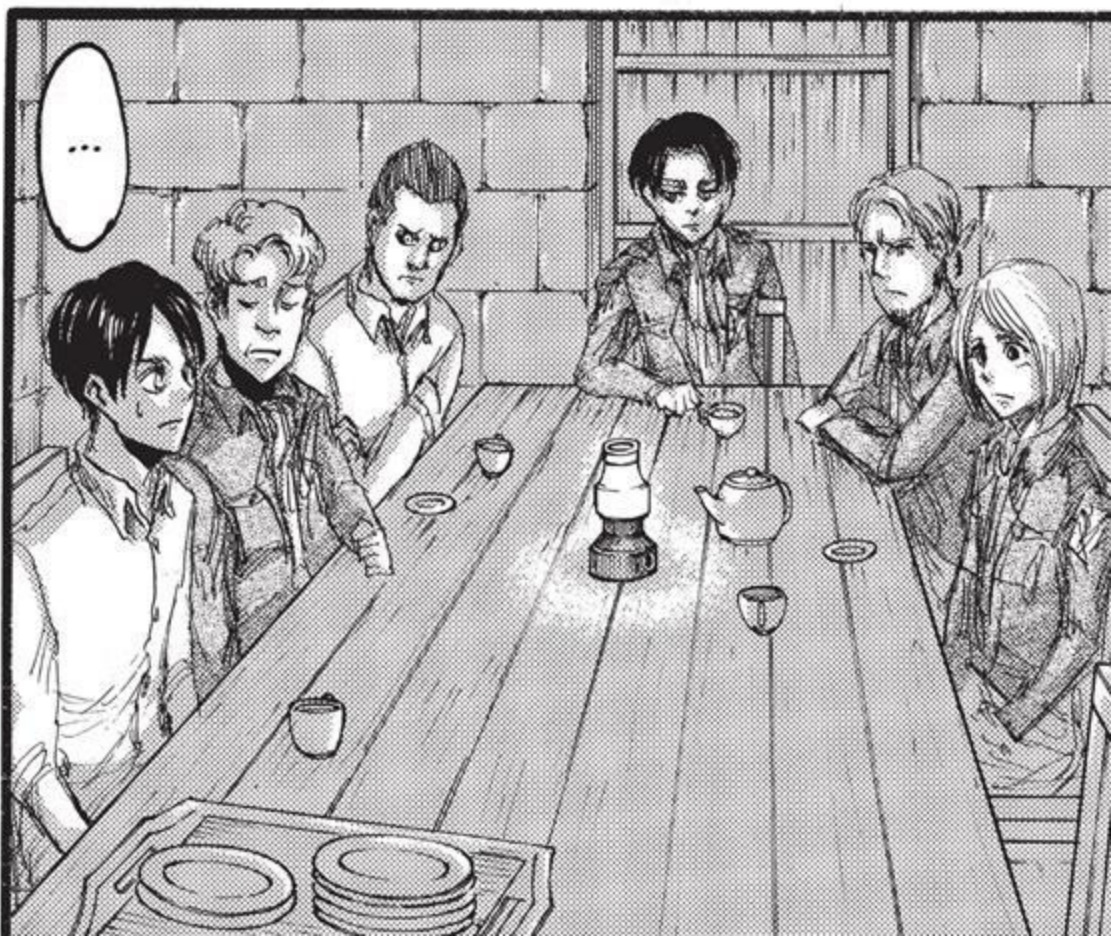
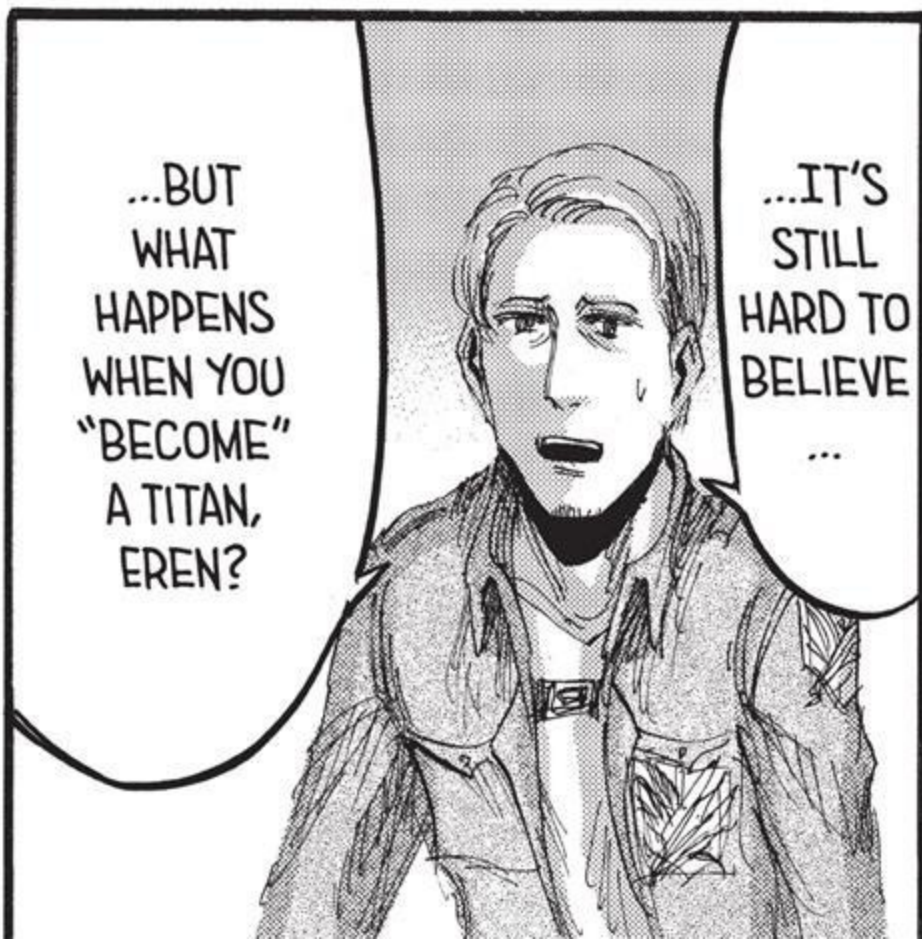
I'M
NOT IN
CHARGE
OF PLAN-
NING
STRAT-
EGY.

IS IT
TRUE,
CAP-
TAIN?



ELD...
IS THAT
TRUE?

AND
THAT
THEY'RE
RUSHING
TO PUT
SOME
RECENT
GRADU-
ATES IN
THE
MIX.





HUH?



I DO KNOW THAT THE TRIGGER IS SELF-INFLICTED PAIN. I BITE MY HAND LIKE...

...BUT IT'S LIKE I LOSE TRACK OF MYSELF.

...MY MEMORIES OF IT AREN'T REALLY CLEAR...



...YOU MAY NOT ASK HIM ANYTHING PAST WHAT'S IN THE REPORT.

I'M SURE YOU'RE ALL AWARE, BUT...

COME TO THINK OF IT, HOW DID I KNOW TO DO THAT?



SHE...?

EH...?



IF SHE SCREWS UP WHILE POKING AND PRODDING YOU, IT MAY BE THE DEATH OF YOU, EREN.

ALTHOUGH I DOUBT **SHE'LL** KEEP HER MOUTH SHUT.

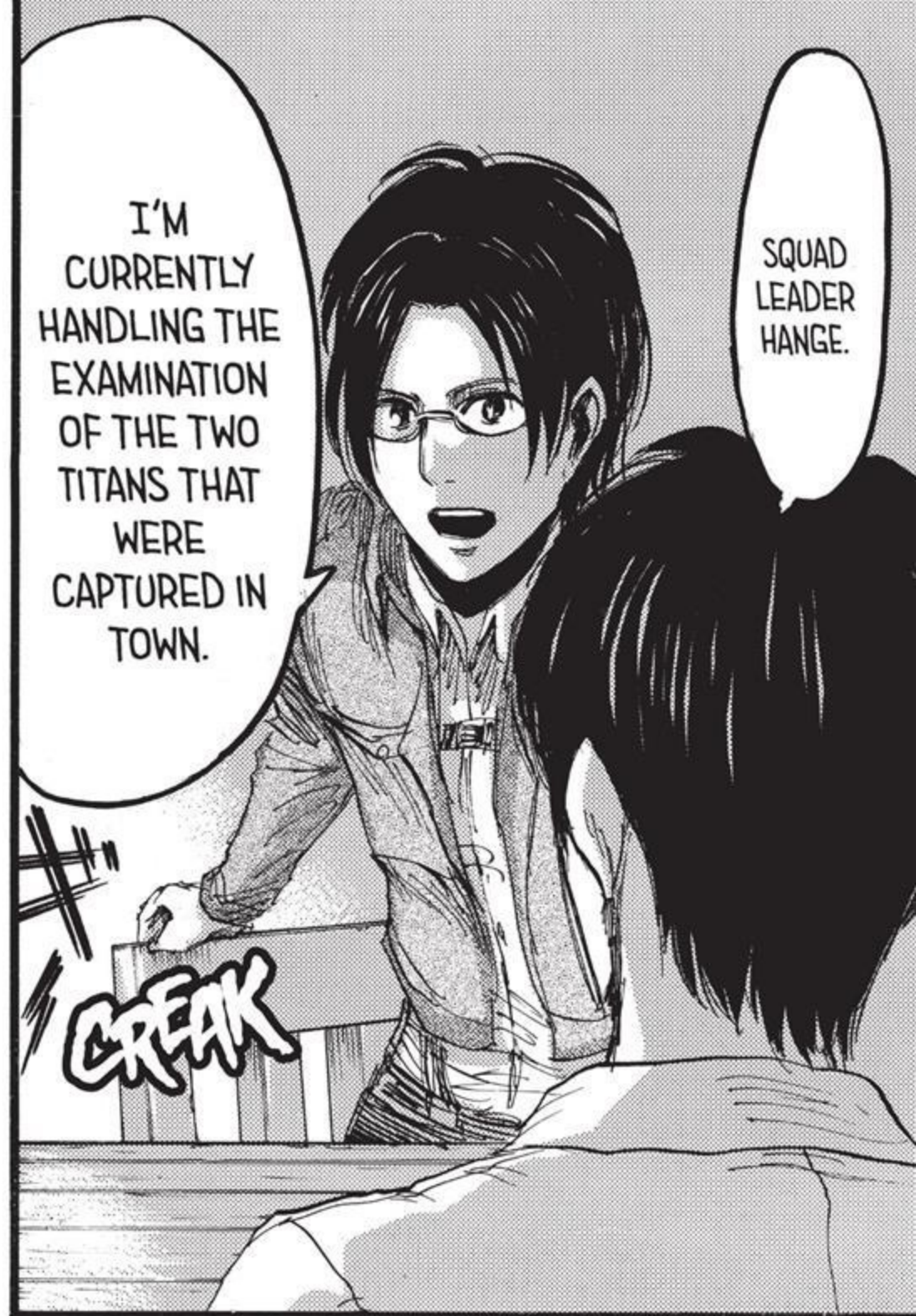
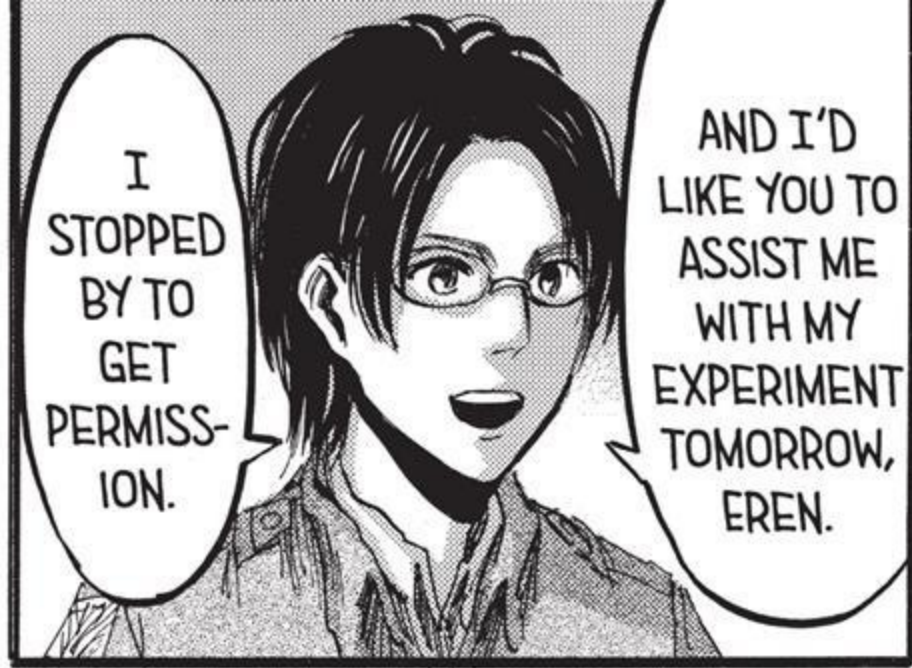


HER.



IS THE CASTLE COMFORTABLE?

HI THERE, **SQUAD LEVI!**







FIRST, I
REPEATED THE
EXPERIMENT
WE TRIED FIVE
TIMES IN THE
PAST,
WHENEVER WE
HAD A CAPTIVE
TITAN: AN
ATTEMPT TO
COMMUNICATE.

DOES
IT
HURT?

WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?

HOW
DO YOU
FEEL?

SQUAD
LEADER,
YOU'RE
TOO
CLOSE.

THIS ISN'T
THE FIRST
TIME
WE'VE
SUCCESS-
FULLY
SNARED A
TITAN.

HOWEVER, THE
TIME I SPENT
INTERACTING
WITH THE
TITANS WAS SO
FASCINATING
THAT IT MADE
ME FORGET HOW
EXHAUSTED I
WAS.

TOO
CLOSE
!!

THAT
WAS
CLOSE
!!

W
H
O
A
!!

SNAP

UNFORTUNATELY,
I WAS FORCED TO
CONCLUDE THAT
MEANINGFUL
CONVERSATION IS
IMPOSSIBLE.

SQUAD
LEADER
!!
THAT'S
DANGER-
OUS!!

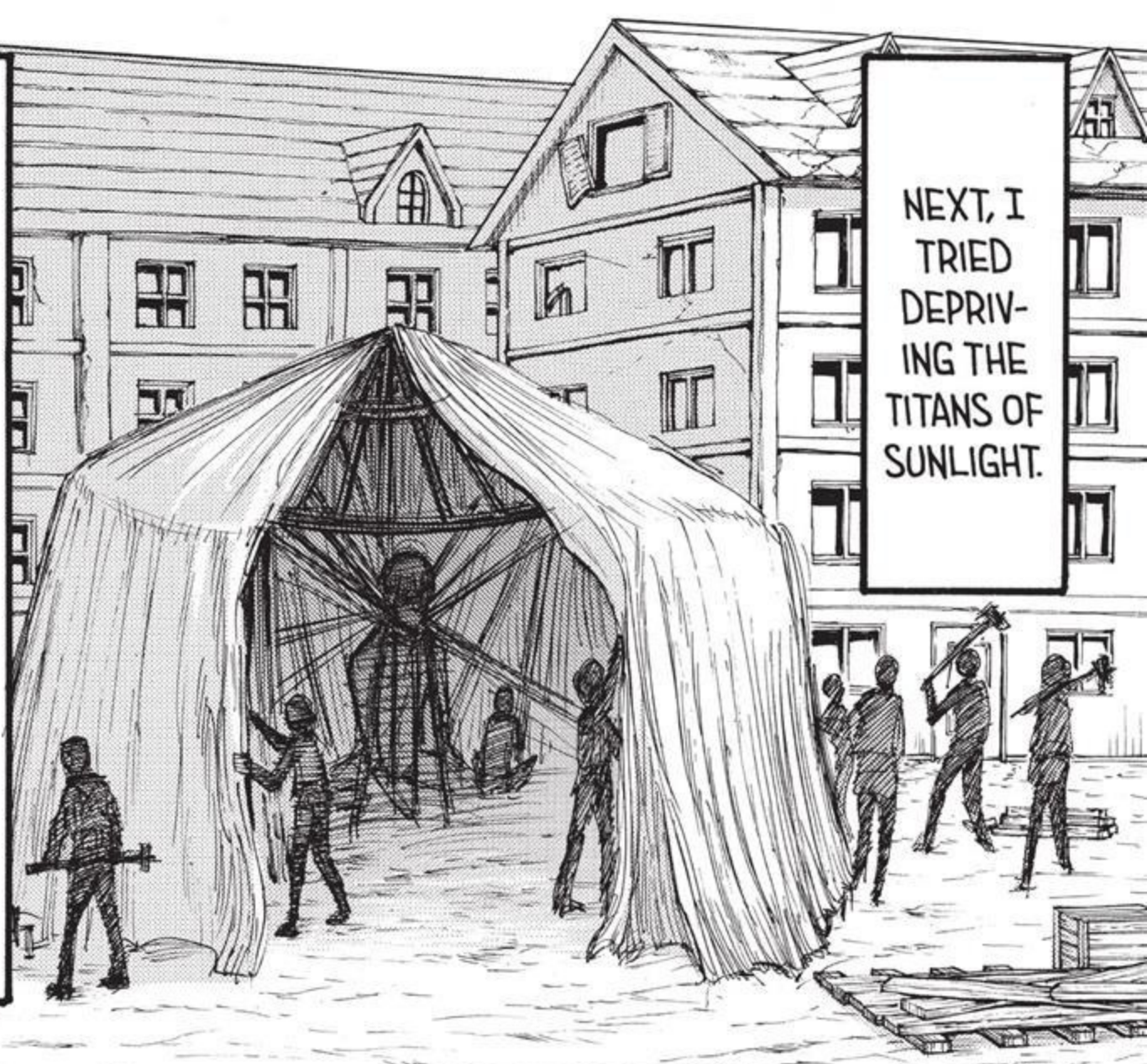
* ABOUT 13 FEET AND 23 FEET, RESPECTIVELY.

...AND THE
7-METER*
CLASS ONE
"BEAN."

INCIDEN-
TALLY, I
NAMED THE
4-METER*
CLASS ONE
"SONNY"...

TITANS BECOME LESS
ENERGETIC AS NIGHT
WEARS ON, SO THIS
EXPERIMENT
TESTED THE
HYPOTHESIS THAT
THEY DERIVE
SOMETHING FROM
SUNLIGHT THAT GIVES
THEM VITALITY.

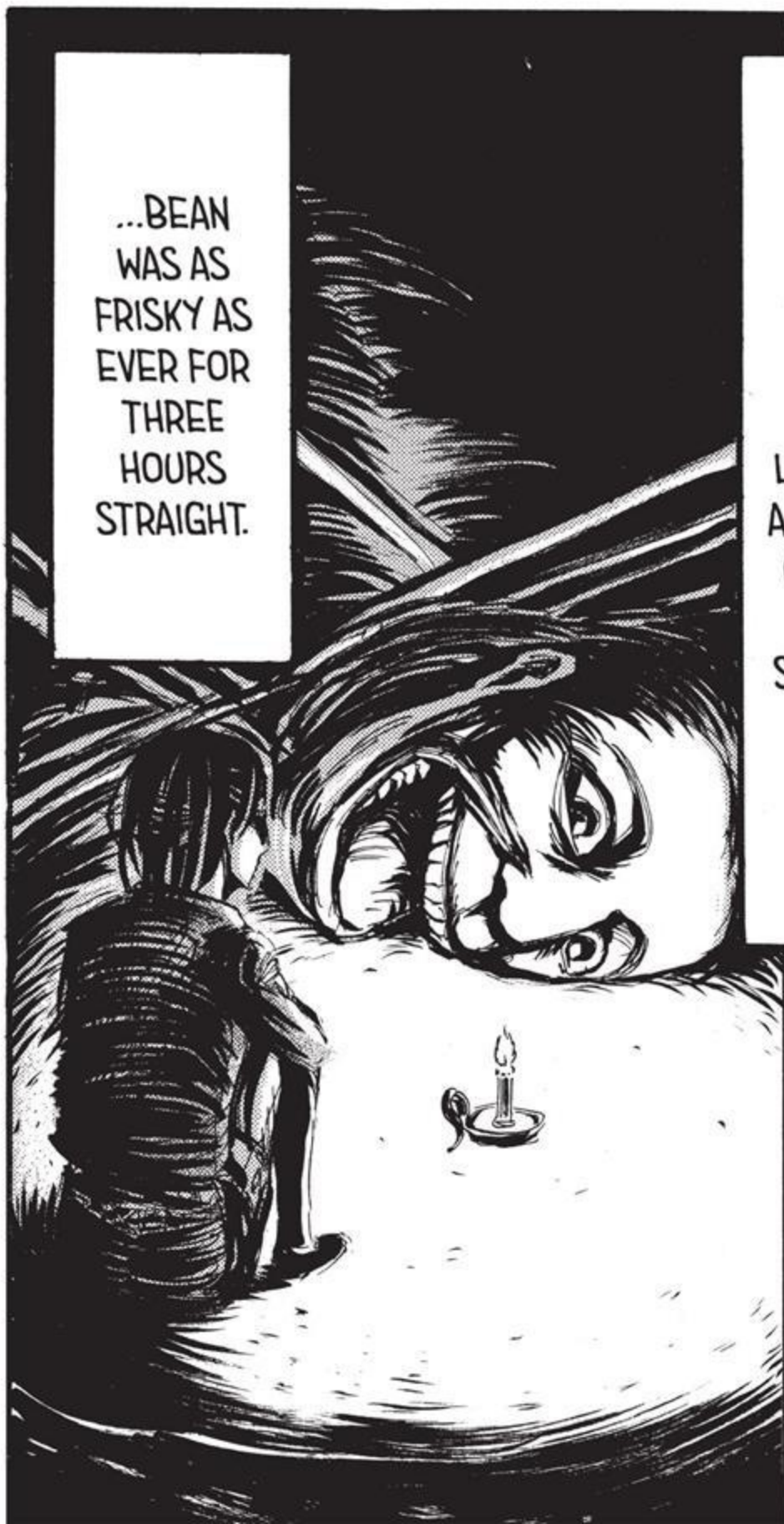
NEXT, I
TRIED
DEPRIV-
ING THE
TITANS OF
SUNLIGHT.

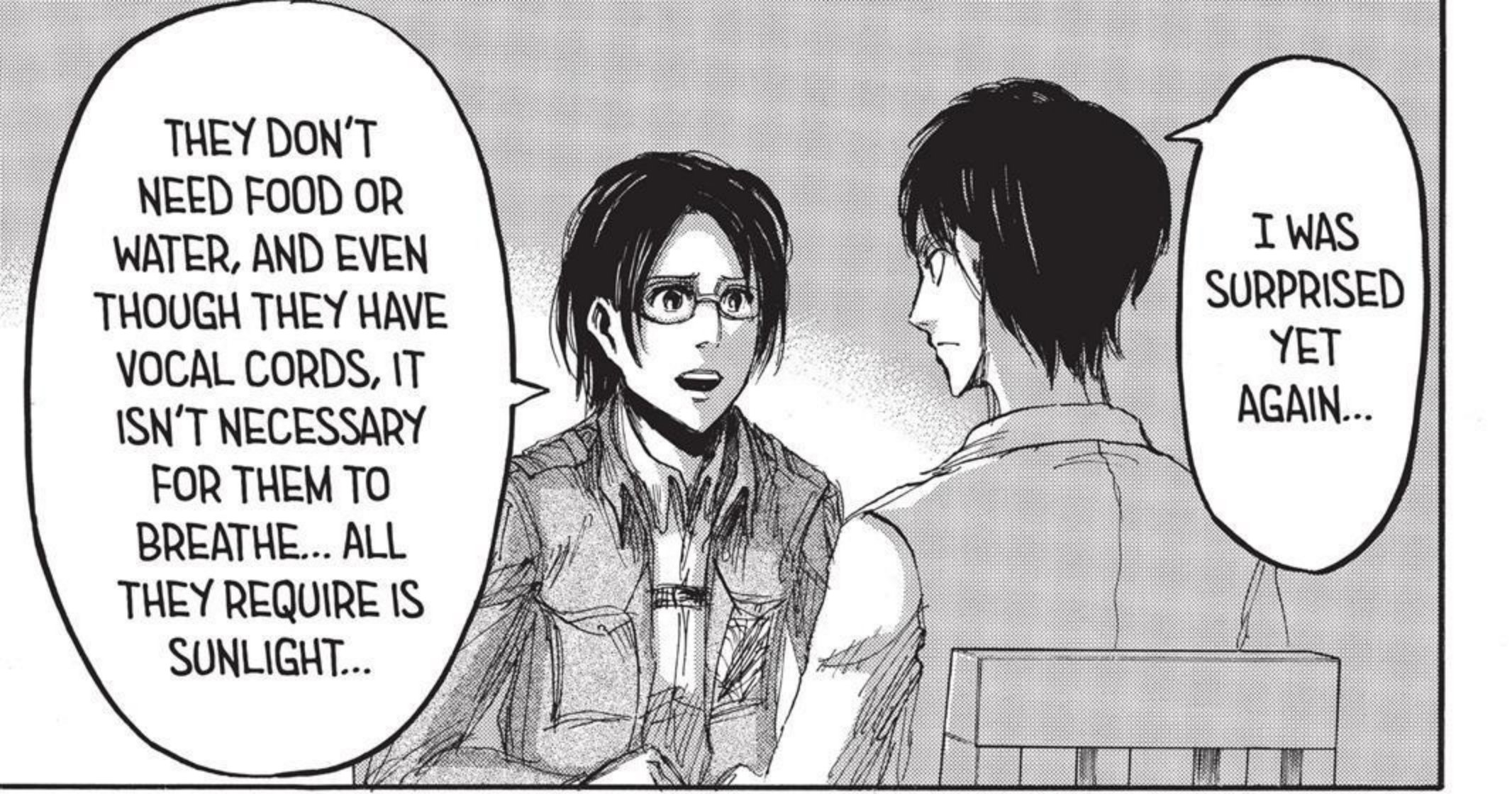


...BEAN
WAS AS
FRISKY AS
EVER FOR
THREE
HOURS
STRAIGHT.

WHEREAS
SONNY
BECAME
LETHARGIC
AFTER JUST
ONE HOUR
WITHOUT
SUNLIGHT...

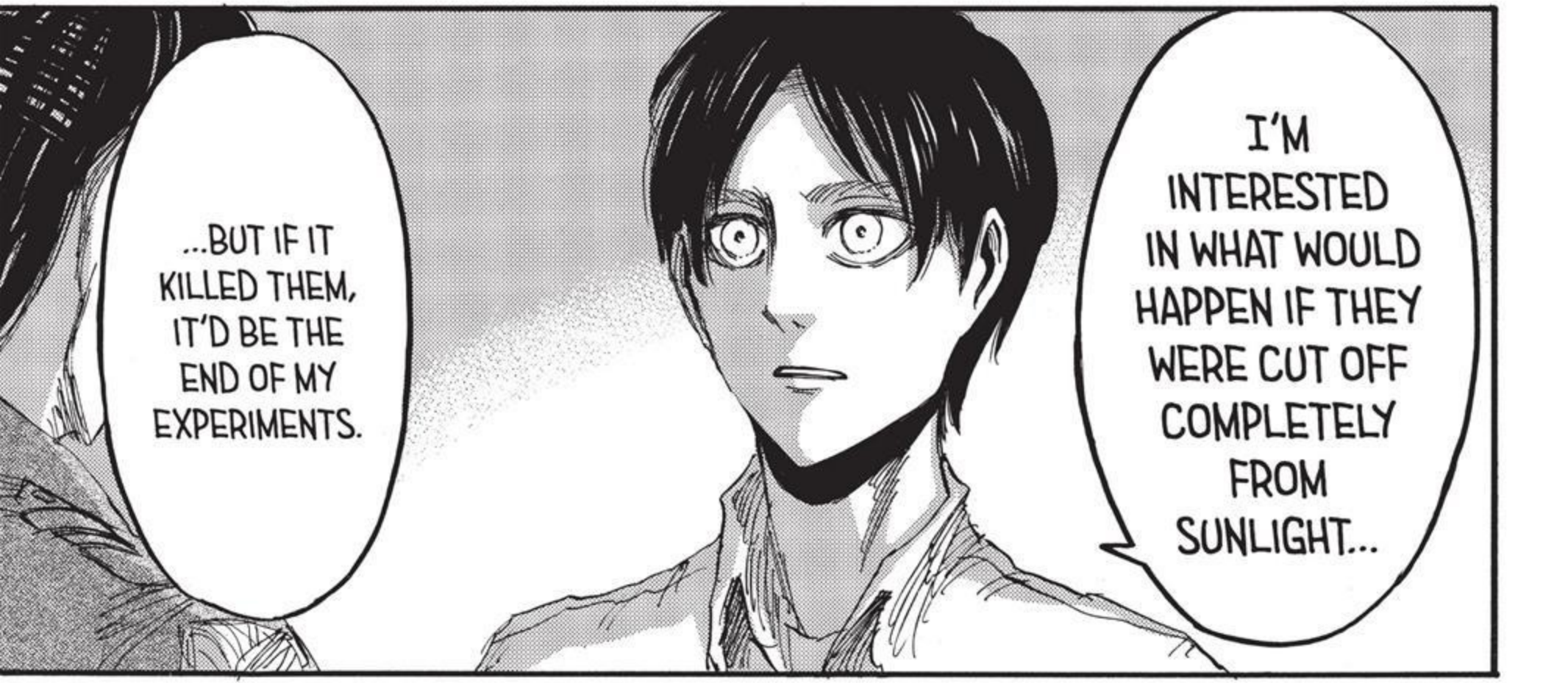
HERE,
THE
TITANS
SHOWED
INDIVIDUAL
DIFFER-
ENCES.





THEY DON'T
NEED FOOD OR
WATER, AND EVEN
THOUGH THEY HAVE
VOCAL CORDS, IT
ISN'T NECESSARY
FOR THEM TO
BREATHE... ALL
THEY REQUIRE IS
SUNLIGHT...

I WAS
SURPRISED
YET
AGAIN...



...BUT IF IT
KILLED THEM,
IT'D BE THE
END OF MY
EXPERIMENTS.

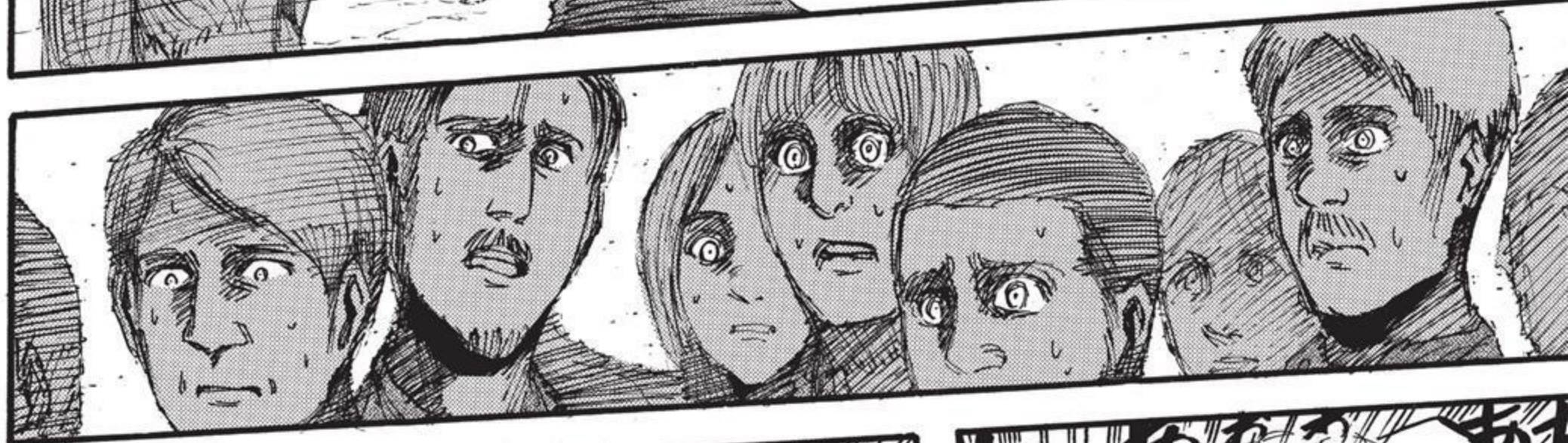
I'M
INTERESTED
IN WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN IF THEY
WERE CUT OFF
COMPLETELY
FROM
SUNLIGHT...



I
EXPLORED
THEIR
SENSE OF
PAIN.



SO I
MOVED
ON TO THE
NEXT STAGE:
DIRECT
CONTACT WITH
THE TITANS'
BODIES!



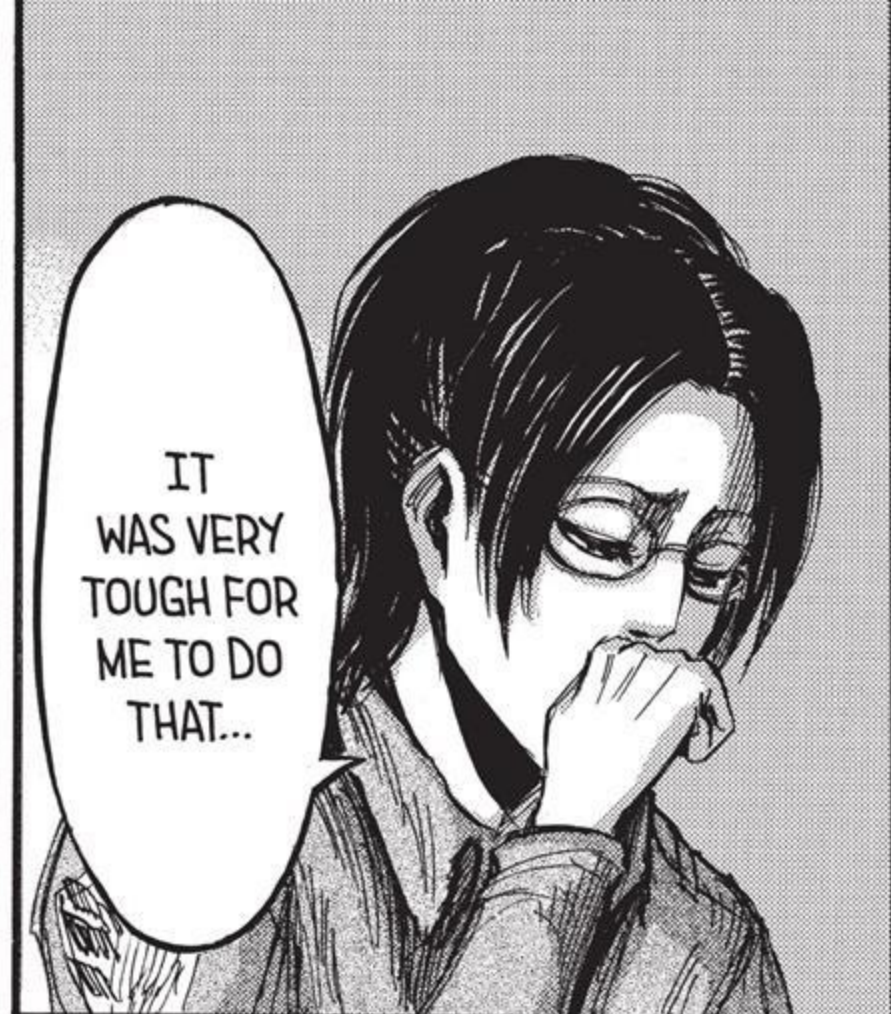
LOOK AT
HOW MUCH
PAIN BEAN
IS IN!

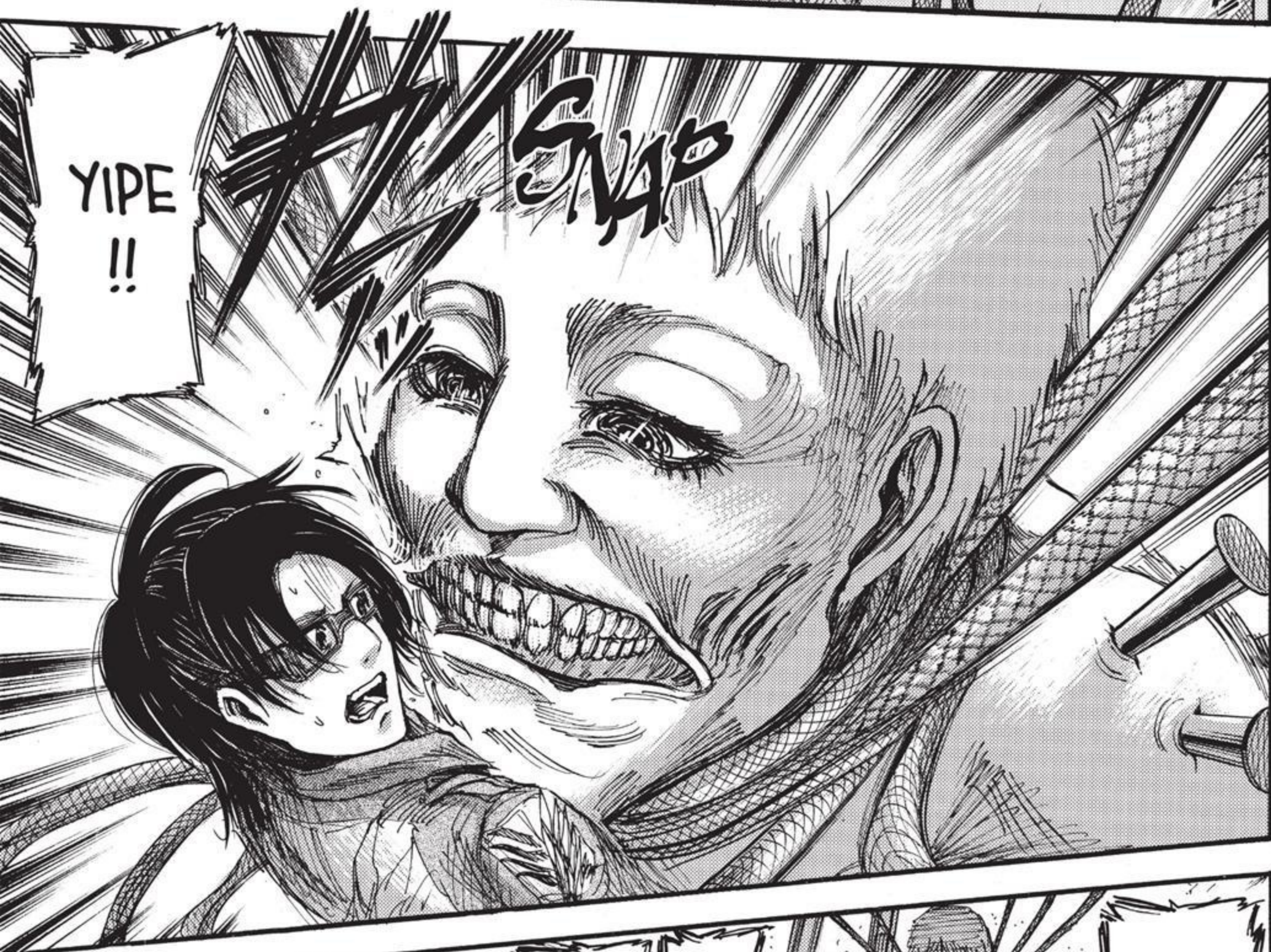
HOW
COULD I
DO THIS
AND NOT
SCREAM?!



SQUAD
LEADER!!
THERE'S
NO NEED
FOR **YOU**
TO
SCREAM
...





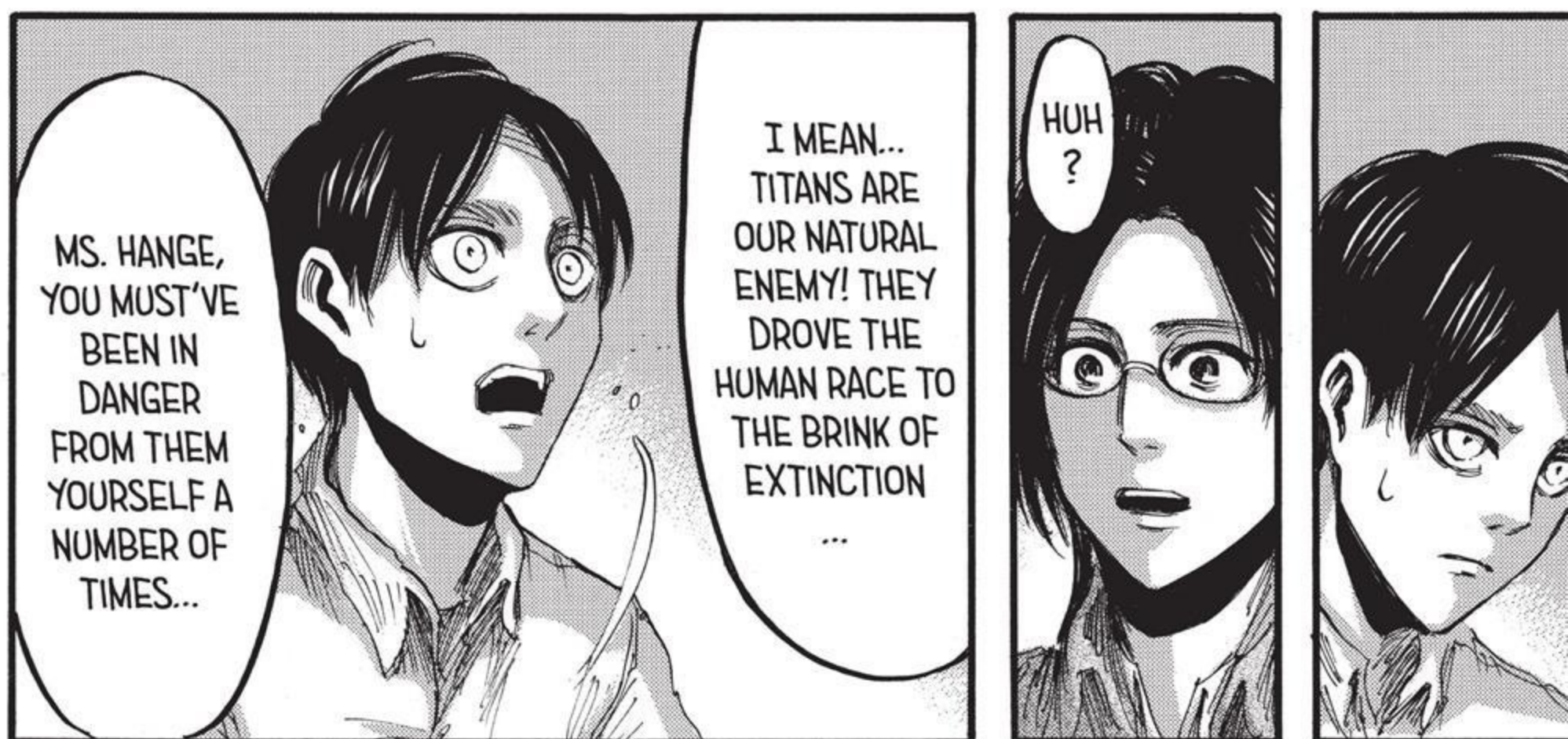




HOW CAN
YOU BE SO
CHEERFUL
AROUND
TITANS?

ALL HE
DOES IS
TRY TO
BITE MY
HEAD OFF.

SO YOU CAN
SEE THAT
SONNY HAS A
HARD TIME
EXPRESSING
HIMSELF.



MS. HANGE,
YOU MUST'VE
BEEN IN
DANGER
FROM THEM
YOURSELF A
NUMBER OF
TIMES...

I MEAN...
TITANS ARE
OUR NATURAL
ENEMY! THEY
DROVE THE
HUMAN RACE TO
THE BRINK OF
EXTINCTION
...

HUH
?



WHEN I
FIRST JOINED
THE SURVEY
CORPS, I
RELIED ON MY
HATRED TO
GET ME
THROUGH
BATTLES WITH
THE TITANS.

I'VE SEEN
MY COMRADES
GET
SLAUGHTERED
BY THE TITANS
RIGHT BEFORE
MY EYES
MORE TIMES
THAN I
CARE TO
RECALL.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.

IT WAS AS
I KICKED THE
DECAPITATED
HEAD OF A
3-METER*
CLASS TITAN.

AND
THEN, ONE
DAY, I
REALIZED
SOME-
THING.

* ABOUT 10 FEET.

WHAT?

...WAS
VERY
LIGHT.

THE
TITAN'S
BODY...

AND ALL THE TITANS
ARE LIKE THAT... THE
WEIGHT OF A SEVERED
ARM WASN'T NEARLY
WHAT IT SHOULD'VE
BEEN, CONSIDERING
ITS SIZE.

IN THE FIRST
PLACE, THAT TITAN
SHOULDN'T HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO
STAND, MUCH LESS
WALK, ON TWO
LEGS.



THEN I HEAR
THAT WHEN YOU
TURNED INTO A
TITAN, EREN, YOUR
TITAN BODY JUST
FORMED UP OUT
OF NOTHING.



...ARE
TOTALLY
DIFFER-
ENT
THINGS.

...IS THAT
WHAT WE
CAN **SEE**
AND THE
TRUE NATURE
OF WHAT
ACTUALLY
EXISTS...



...IS
HAP-
PEN-
ING
...

WHAT
I
THINK
...

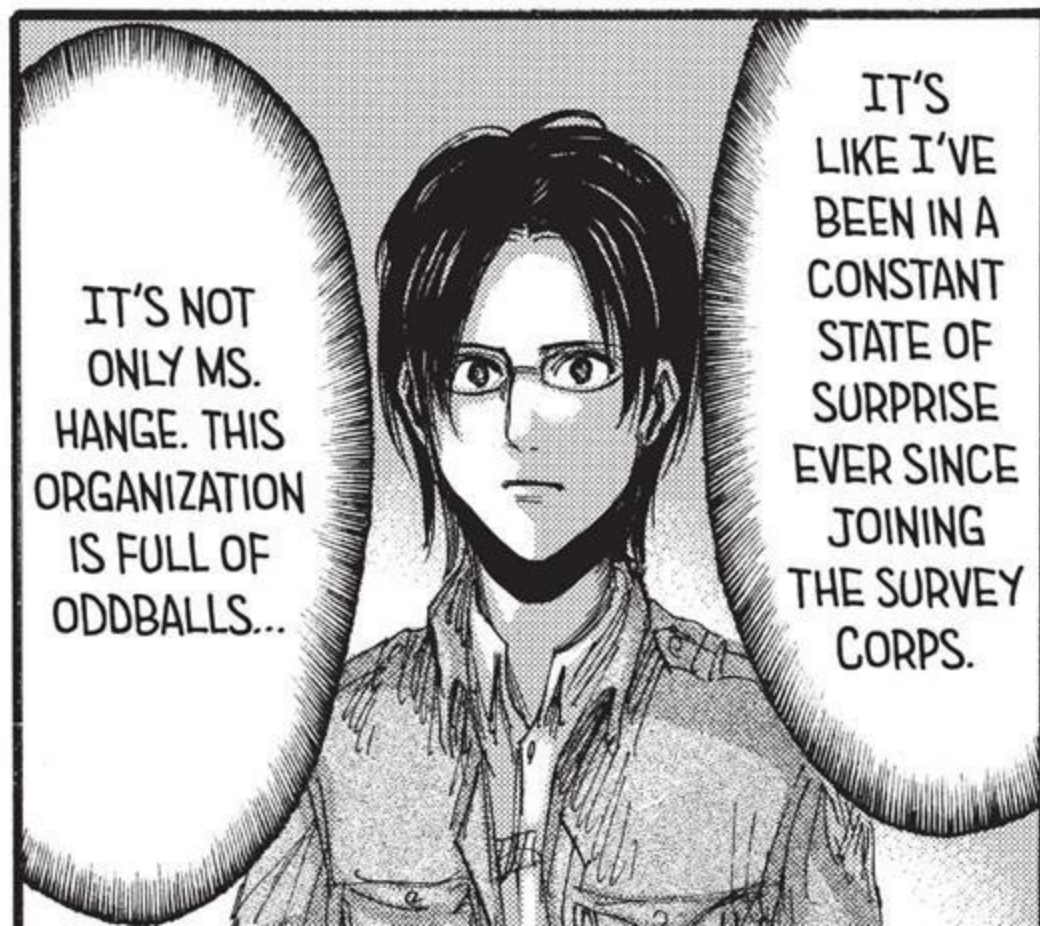


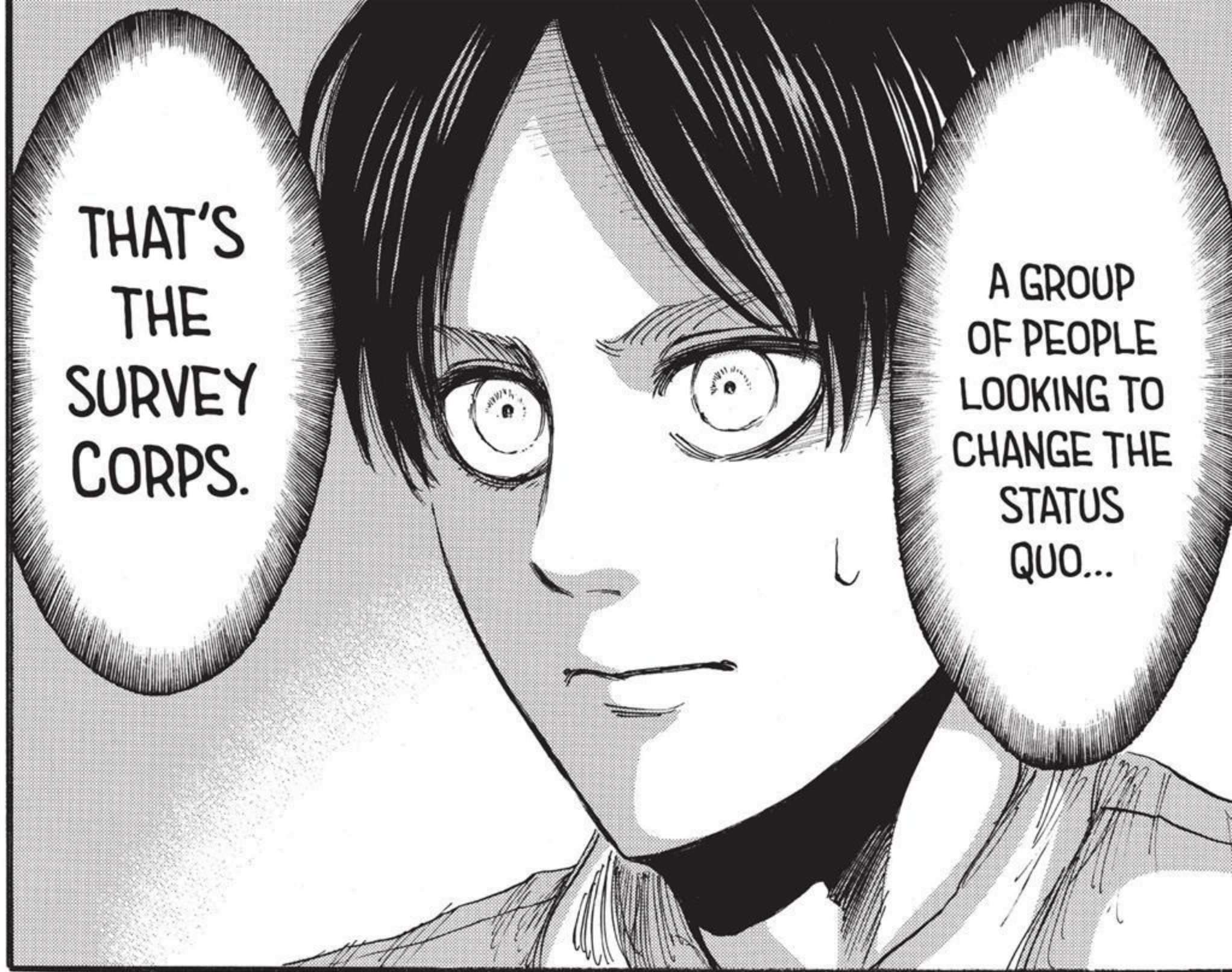
I MAY
JUST BE
SPINNING
MY
WHEELS...

I WANT TO
TRY LOOKING
AT THE TITANS
FROM A
DIFFERENT
ANGLE THAN
THE
PREDOMINANT
VIEW.



FOR
DECADES
NOW,
WE'VE
MADE AN
EFFORT
TO
THRIVE
ON
HATRED
AND MOVE
AGGRES-
SIVELY.





THAT'S
THE
SURVEY
CORPS.

A GROUP
OF PEOPLE
LOOKING TO
CHANGE THE
STATUS
QUO...



AND IF IT
DOES, THAT
COULD MOVE
US ONE STEP
AHEAD.

EREN...
ADDING YOU AS
A COMPONENT
IN THE
EXPERIMENTS
MAY TEACH US
SOMETHING
NEW.



MS.
HANGE
...

THERE'S
NEVER
BEEN A
CHANGE
LIKE THIS
BEFORE.



...BUT
I'M
HAVING
FUN.

IT'S
POSSIBLE
I'M JUST
BEING A PAIN
IN THE ASS
AND
EXPECTING
TOO MUCH
OF YOU...



REALLY?



HM?

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIMENTS.



TRUE, I DID LEAVE OUT A LOT IN MY EXPLANATION...



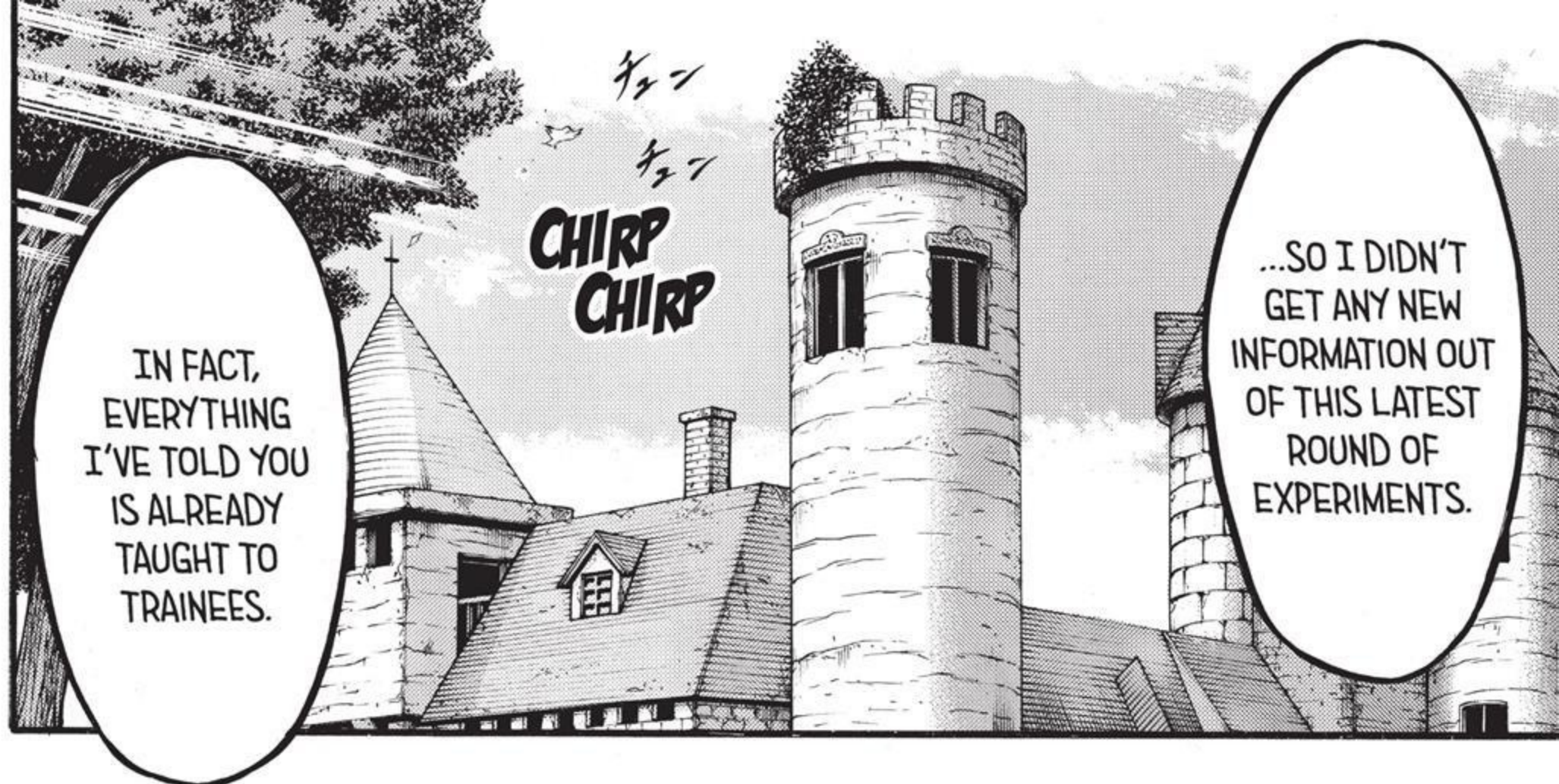
R-RIGHT.

IF NOTHING ELSE, I SHOULD PROBABLY BE WELL INFORMED FOR THE SAKE OF TOMORROW'S EXPERIMENT.



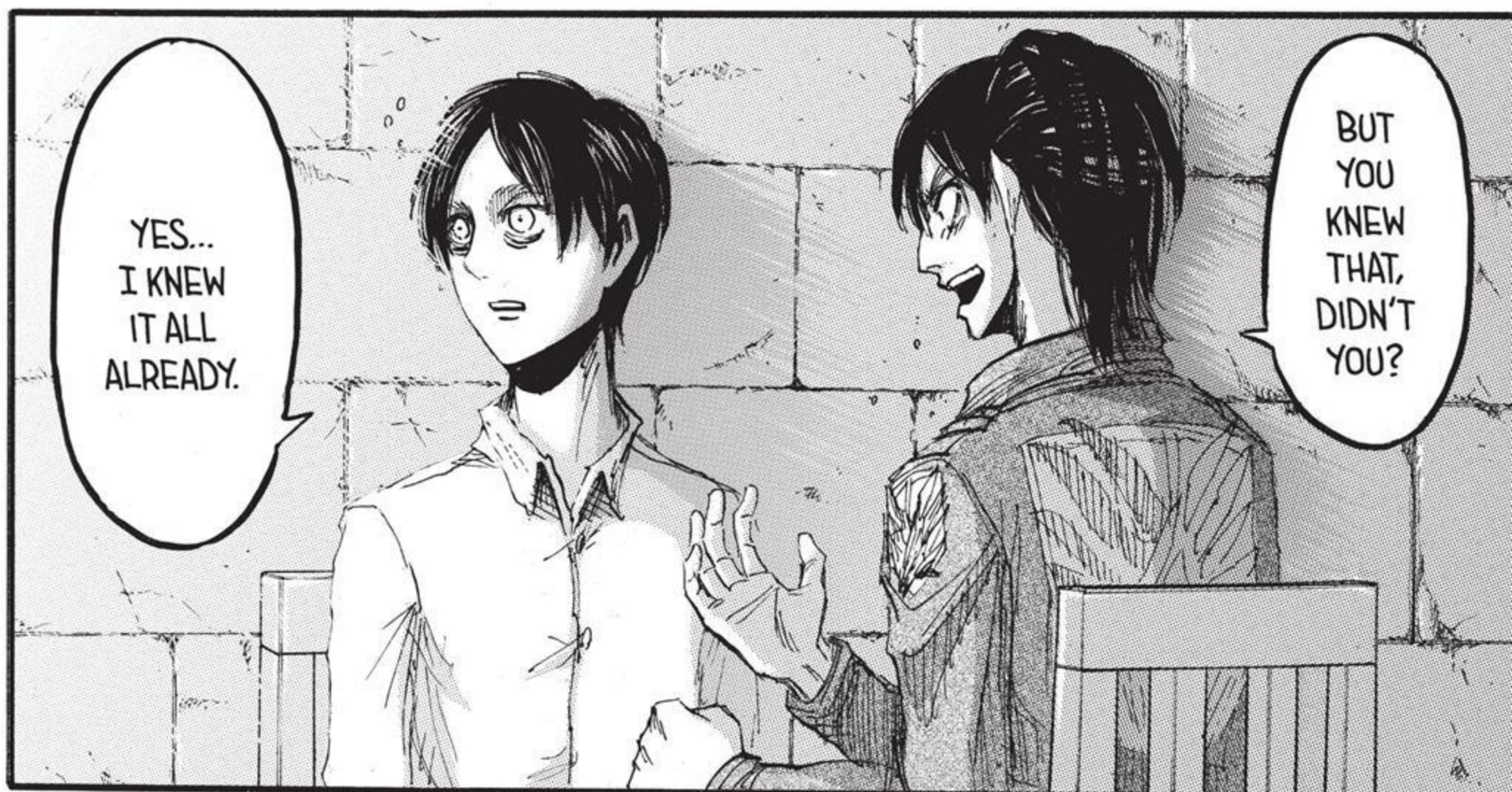
ALTHOUGH WE MAY BE HERE A WHILE...

OKAY, LET'S GET INTO THE NITTY-GRITTY.



IN FACT,
EVERYTHING
I'VE TOLD YOU
IS ALREADY
TAUGHT TO
TRAINEES.

...SO I DIDN'T
GET ANY NEW
INFORMATION OUT
OF THIS LATEST
ROUND OF
EXPERIMENTS.



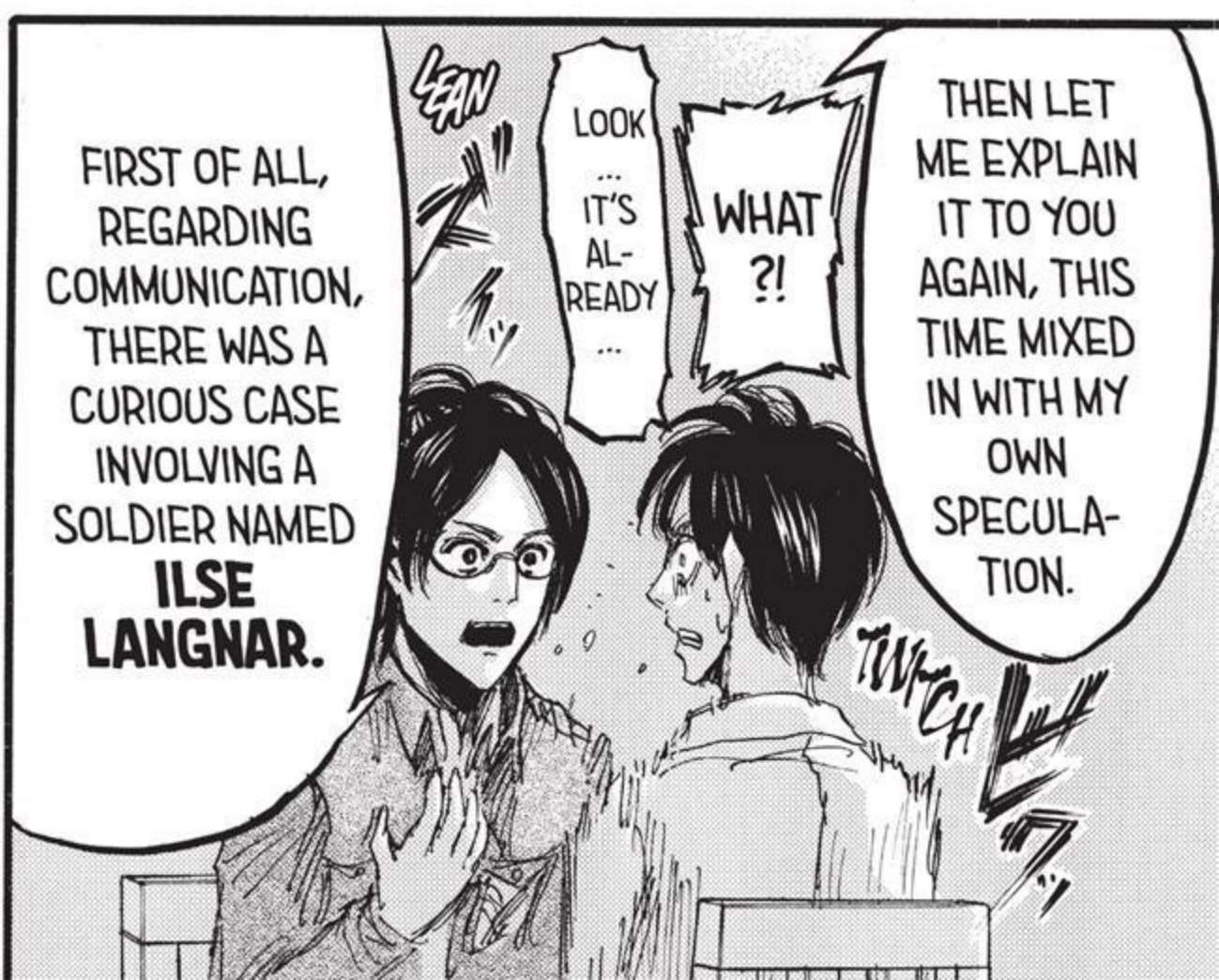
YES...
I KNEW
IT ALL
ALREADY.

BUT
YOU
KNEW
THAT,
DIDN'T
YOU?



IS
SQUAD
LEADER
HANGE
HERE?

BAN



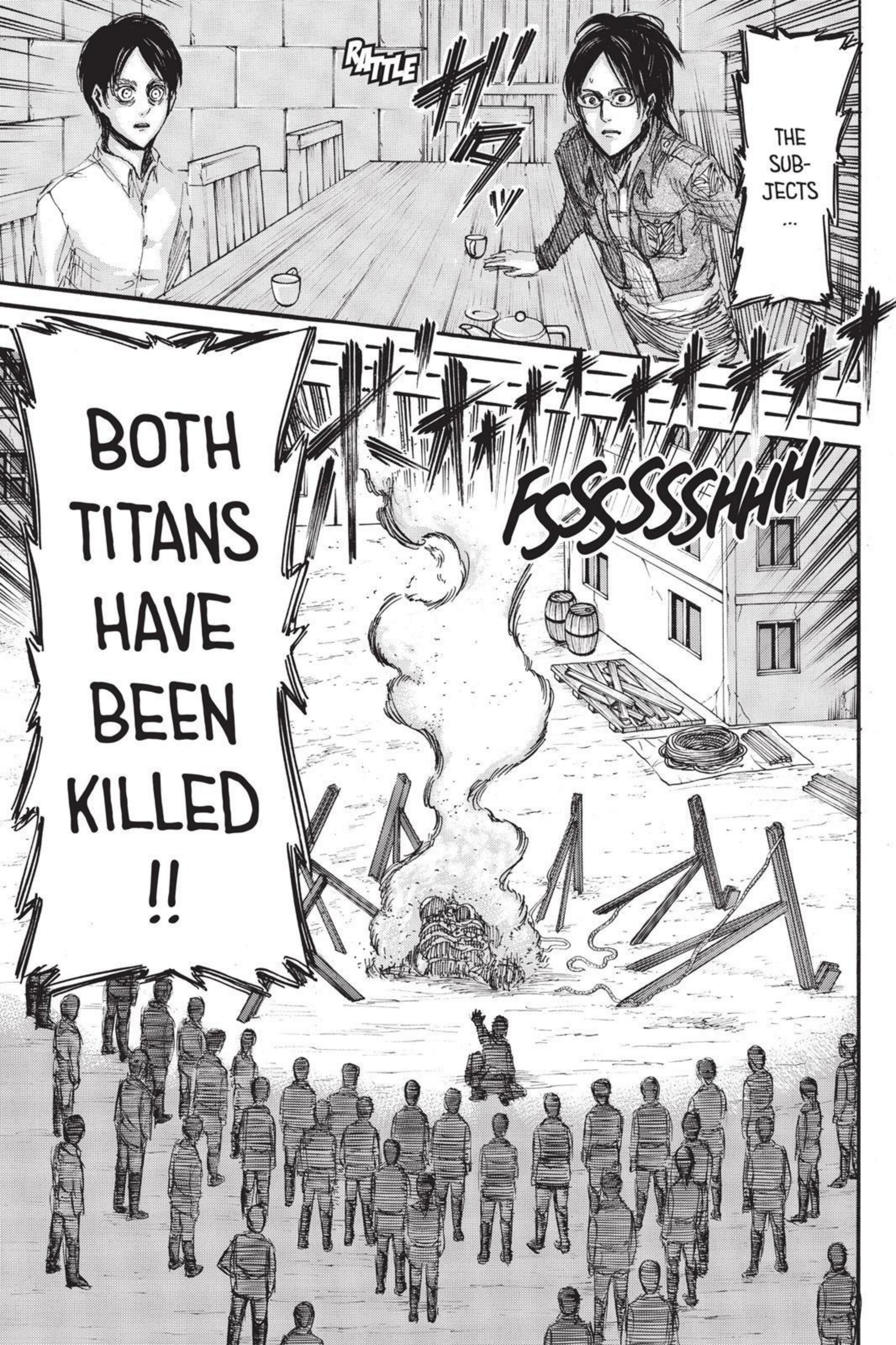
FIRST OF ALL,
REGARDING
COMMUNICATION,
THERE WAS A
CURIOUS CASE
INVOLVING A
SOLDIER NAMED
**ILSE
LANGNAR.**

LOOK
...
IT'S AL-
READY
...

WHAT
?!

THEN LET
ME EXPLAIN
IT TO YOU
AGAIN, THIS
TIME MIXED
IN WITH MY
OWN SPECULA-
TION.

TWCH



RATTLE

THE
SUB-
JECTS
...

BOTH
TITANS
HAVE
BEEN
KILLED
!!

FGSSSHHH



LOOKS LIKE
THEY WERE BOTH
KILLED AT THE
SAME TIME,
BEFORE DAWN. BY
THE TIME THE
GUARDS NOTICED,
WHOEVER DID IT
HAD ALREADY
GOTTEN AWAY
USING VERTICAL
MANEUVERING
GEAR.

WE
HAVEN'T
FOUND
THE
CULPRIT.

BEAN!

SONY!

NO! DID A
SOLDIER
DO IT?



IF THEY
WEREN'T
MORONS...
THEN WHY'D
THEY DO
IT?

MURMUR
MURMUR

THEY WERE
IMPORTANT
TEST
SUBJECTS.
WHAT KIND
OF MORONS
WOULD...



LOOK
AT
HANGE.
SHE'S
GONE
OFF THE
DEEP
END.

SO
THIS WAS
PRE-
MEDITATED,
WITH TWO
OR MORE
PEOPLE
INVOLVED
...



COM-
MAND
ER!

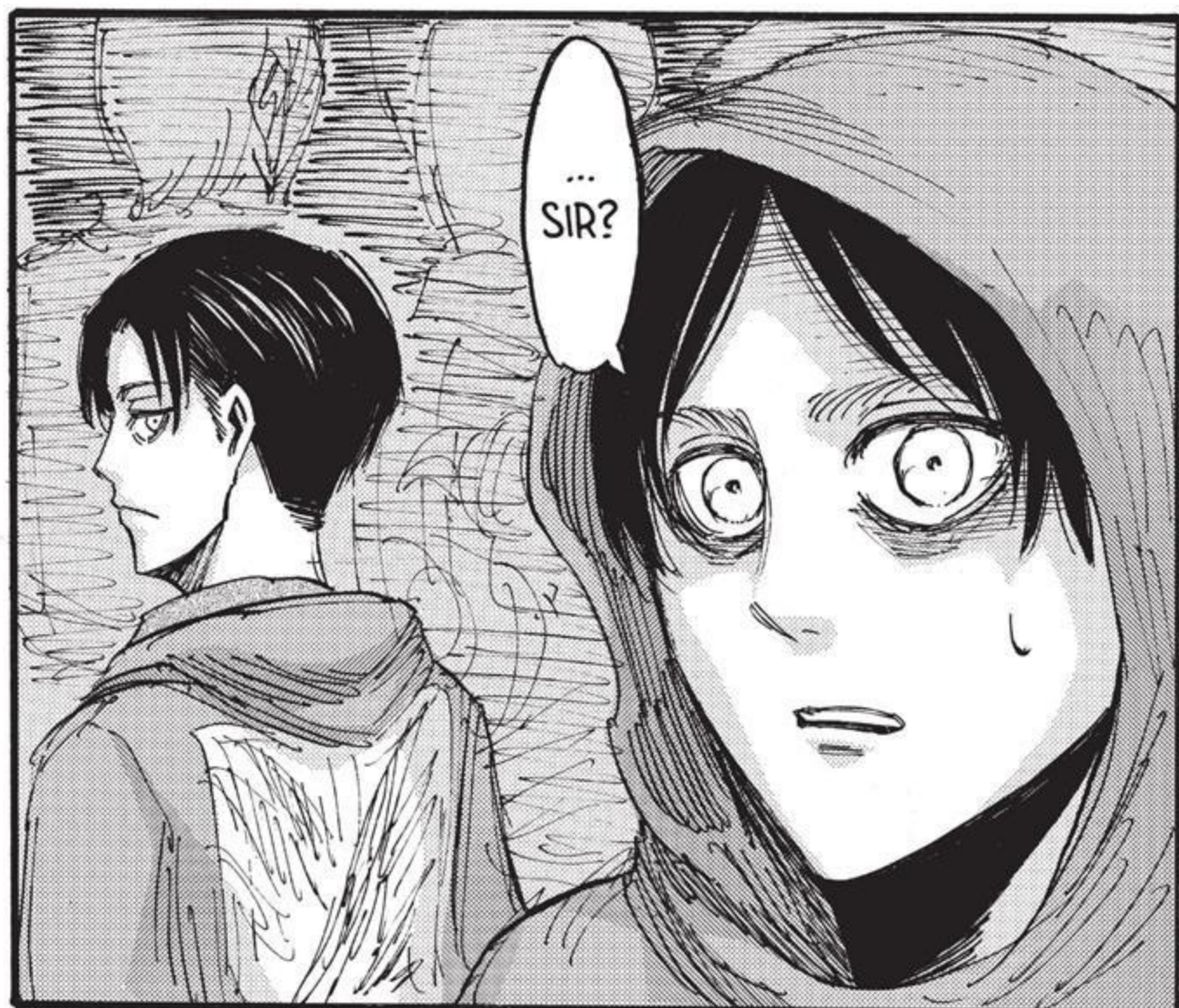
EREN
...

CHFF



Y-
YES,
SIR.

LET'S
GO...THE
REST IS
UP TO THE
MILITARY
POLICE
BRIGADE.



ATTACK on TITAN